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DIGITAL ENGLISH DAILY, BENGALURU

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## Massive search ops after gunshots in heard Kathua

**JAMMU, 11 JUNE**

A massive search operation was launched in a forest area following suspicious movement of three people in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district on Tuesday evening, officials said. The suspected movement was noticed in Seda Sohal village in Hiranagar sector around 7.45 pm, the officials said. A couple of gunshots were heard, believed to be fired by the suspected people who started fleeing into the nearby forest after some people raised an alarm, they said. The officials said that police and other security forces rushed to the area on getting information and a massive search operation was launched to track down the fleeing suspects. *—PTI*

## World Bank retains India's growth forecast at 6.7%

**NEW DELHI, 11 JUNE**

India will remain the fastest-growing major economy recording a steady growth of 6.7 per cent in the next three years including the current financial year, said a world bank report released on Tuesday. In India, growth is estimated to have picked up to 8.2 per cent in fiscal year (FY) 2023/24 (April 2023 to March 2024) -- 1.9 percentage points higher than estimated in January, according to the World Bank's latest Global Economic Prospects report. It further said global growth is projected to hold steady at 2.6 per cent in 2024 before edging up to an average of 2.7 per cent in 2025-26. That is well below the 3.1 per cent average in the decade before Covid-19. Growth in the South Asia (SAR) region is projected to slow from 6.6 per cent in 2023 to 6.2 per cent in 2024. *—Salar News*

## Delhi in dark as power grid in UP fails

**NEW DELHI, 11 JUNE**

Delhi, which is reeling under a heatwave and severe water crisis, suffered one of its biggest power outage. Delhi Power minister Atishi on Tuesday said a fire at sub-station of Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd (PGCIL) in Mandola in Uttar Pradesh had led to power outage in many parts of the national capital. According to discom officials, east and central parts of Delhi were largely affected. They said the discoms were working to restore electricity. In a post on X, Atishi said she is seeking appointment with the Union Power Minister and the Chairman of PGCIL, to ensure such a situation is not repeated. *—PTI*

# NEET sanctity hit: NTA draws SC ire

## SC seeks Centre, NTA reply over fresh exam

**NEW DELHI, 11 JUNE**

Observing that the sanctity of NEET-UG 2024 has been affected, Supreme Court on Tuesday sought responses from Centre and National Testing Agency (NTA) on a plea seeking holding of a fresh examination on grounds of alleged question paper leak and other malpractices.

The top court, however, refused to stay the counselling of successful candidates for admissions to MBBS, BDS and other courses.

Taking note of the allegations, a vacation bench of Justice Vikram Nath and Justice Ahsanuddin Amanullah said what the NTA was supposed to do was sacrosanct. Besides the Centre and the NTA, which conducts NEET-UG, the bench also issued notices to the Bihar government.

There were allegations of malpractice in holding the exam in the state.

It tagged the plea filed by

Supreme Court *PHOTO: PTI*

Shivangi Mishra and nine other MBBS aspirants with a pending petition and asked NTA to file the response in the meantime.

The top court will resume regular hearings from 8 July after the summer vacation which commenced on 20 May comes to an end.

NEET-UG was held on 5 May and results were declared on 4 June.

It was expected to be declared on 14 June.

National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test-Undergraduate (NEET-UG) examination is conducted by the National Testing Agency (NTA) for admissions to MBBS, BDS, AYUSH and other related courses in government and private institutions across the country.

SC took note of the submission that the fresh plea be tagged with a similar petition filed earlier on which a bench headed by CJI DY Chanrdarchud had issued notices to Centre and NTA on 17 May and that the plea was already listed on 8 July. The court granted the prayer.

The allegation is that exam papers were leaked, and a large number of students got the exam papers in advance, and they became successful. Twenty-three lakh students wrote the examination, and total number of seats available is 1 lakh. Sixty-seven students got 720 out of 720 marks.

Mishra and nine other MBBS candidates sought a direction to the NTA "to recall the results of the examination conducted on 5 May and to conduct the examination afre sh. *—PTI*

# Arrested in murder case, reel-life hero Darshan turns real-life villain

**BENGALURU, 11 JUNE**

Leading Kannada film actor Darshan Thoogudeepa and his close friends and actress Pavithra Gowda were arrested on Tuesday in connection with the murder of a man who allegedly made "derogatory" comments against her, police sources said.

The police questioned the "Challenging Star" and 12 others after taking them into custody in connection with the alleged murder of the man, identified as Renukaswamy, whose body was found here on June nine.

They were produced before a Bengaluru Magistrate court, which remanded them to seven days police custody. It is alleged that Renukaswamy, who worked with a pharma company and hailed from the district headquarters town of Chitradurga, had made "derogatory" comments against Gowda, the sources said.

The 47-year-old Darshan, who featured in several commercially successful films including 'Kariya', 'Krantiveera Sangolli Rayanna', 'Kalasipalya', 'Gaja', 'Navagraha', 'Saarathi', 'Bulbul', 'Yajamana', 'Robert' and 'Kaatera', was picked up from a Mysuru hotel, police said.

After the alleged killing at a shed at Pattanagere under Kamakshipalya police station limits, allegedly belonging to one of the aides of Darshan, Renukaswamy's body was dumped into a nearby storm-water drain, police sources said. "Based on the recovery of the dead body of an unidentified man and the injuries on his body, a murder case was registered. On the basis of CCTV footage and other technical evidence, the deceased was identified as Renukaswamy," Bengaluru Police Commissioner B Dayananda said.

Police came to know after local residents alerted them about the body, which was later sent for an autopsy. The report confirmed that he was murdered, sources said.

Further investigation led to the arrest of 11 suspects, police sources said, adding, based on their statement, Darshan and Pavithra were taken into custody. "He was my only son. Last year he got married. I spoke to him on Saturday only. I want justice," the victim's father Srinivasaiah told reporters. Earlier in the day, Karnataka Home Minister G Parameshwara said Darshan is being subjected to an inquiry by police. *—PTI*

Kannada actor Darshan Thugadeepa being taken to a hospital for medical check up, Bengaluru, on Tuesday; Inset: Renukaswamy *PHOTOS: SALAR*

**DARSHAN'S BRUSH WITH LAW**

- In 2023, Forest Department booked him for posing with a bar-headed goose
- In 2022, a slipper was hurled at him in Hosapete while he was promoting 'Kranti'
- In 2021, he was accused of assault-ing a waiter in Mysuru
- In 2011, he spent a month in jail for assaulting his first wife Vijayalakshmi

**RS 100 CHARGE FOR RESIDENCES**

# City residents to face new garbage collection tax

**BENGALURU, 11 JUNE**

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) on Tuesday got the nod from the State government to introduce the new tax regime for garbage collection alongside the property tax.

The commercial buildings will be charged Rs 200 per month and residential buildings will be charged Rs 100 per month, under the new rule.

Initially, BBMP considered charging based on the amount of waste generated. For commercial users, a detailed proposal has been put forward to charge fees based on the kilograms of waste produced daily. (See box)

Additionally, vacant plots will incur a fee of Rs 20 per square foot. This new fee structure aims to streamline waste management funding. However, the decision has sparked debate among citizens.

Speaking to Salar News, Dhananjaya Padmana bhachar, Convener, Karnataka Home Buyers Forum said, "We the Property owners are completely disappointed. They do not maintain the property, they do not solve the existential problems but only want Money. It's like looting the people." Meanwhile the new tax has seen both positive and negative reactions from residents. "Why pay the tax when garbage is not being collected. We already paying Rs 500 per month to the contractors," said Guruprasad Rotti K, secretary of Heritage resident welfare forum, Basavangudi. Another resident S Adarsh from Hoodi welcomed the decision and said, "Now it depends on the implementation process." *—Salar News*

**Rates per month for commercial buildings:**

- 5kg waste: ₹500
- 10kg waste:₹1,400
- 25kg waste: ₹3,500
- 50kg waste: ₹7,000
- Up to 100 kg: ₹14,000

## NSG, ITBP TO EXIT GUARD DUTY FOR UNION MINISTERS

**NEW DELHI, 11 JUNE**

The VIP security setup of the Union government is expected to witness a major "shift and overhaul" with the new ministers taking charge and the task of guarding over a dozen high-risk people by the National Security Guard (NSG) and the Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) being transferred to other paramilitary forces, official sources said Tuesday.

The sources told PTI that a review of this important wing under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) is expected to be undertaken soon and the covers extended to various political figures and candidates, ex-ministers, retired bureaucrats and some others will be either withdrawn, scaled down or upgraded.

It has also been decided that the long-awaited proposal of completely withdrawing 'black cat' commandos of the NSG from VIP security duties will be implemented now and all its nine Z-plus category protectees will be handed over to the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) VIP security unit, the sources said. Similarly, some of the VIPs secured by the personnel of the border guarding force ITBP may be transferred to the CRPF or the VIP security wing of the CISF called the special security group (SSG), they said. Union government has decided to "restructure" the NSG and use its manpower to raise and station 'strike teams' of commandos in some high-risk areas. *—PTI*

## 49 DIE, SEARCH ON FOR 140 AS BOAT SINKS NEAR YEMEN

**CAIRO, 11 JUNE**

A boat carrying migrants sank off the coast of Yemen, killing at least 49 people and leaving another 140 missing, the UN group said on Tuesday.

The boat was carrying about 260 Somalis and Ethiopians from the northern coast of Somalia on the 320-kilometer journey across the Gulf of Aden when it sank Monday off of Yemen's southern coast, the International Organization for Migration said in a statement.

Seventy-one people have been rescued and the search is ongoing, the group said, noting that 31 women and six children are among the dead.

Yemen is a major route for migrants from East Africa and the Horn of Africa trying to reach Gulf countries for work. Despite a nearly decade-long civil war in Yemen, the number of arriving migrants has tripled in recent years, from about 27,000 in 2021 to more than 90,000 last year, the IOM said last month. About 380,000 migrants are currently in Yemen, according to the agency. To reach Yemen, migrants are taken by smugglers on often dangerous, overcrowded boats across the Red Sea or Gulf of Aden. *—PTI*

# Odisha gets tribal CM in Mohan Majhi, 2 DyCMs

**BHUBANESWAR, 11 JUNE**

BJP's tribal leader and four-time MLA Mohan Charan Majhi will be the new Chief Minister of Odisha, where the saffron party came to power for the first time with a clear mandate in assembly elections, ending the 24-year stint of BJD.

Announcing the name of Majhi, a surprise pick, Union minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday said KV Singh Deo and Pravati Parida have been made deputy chief ministers.

The decisions were taken at the BJP legislature party meeting, which unanimously chose 52-year-old Majhi as its leader. Singh and Union minister Bhupender Yadav attended the meeting as central observers.

Majhi will succeed Naveen Patnaik, the BJD supremo.

"Delighted to announce that Shri Mohan Charan Majhi has been elected unanimously as the leader of Odisha BJP Legislature Party. He is a young and dynamic party karyakarta who will take the state forward on road to progress and prosperity as the new Chief Minister of Odisha. Many congratulations to him," Singh said on X.

The chief whip of the BJP in the previous assembly, he was elected to the assembly in recently held elections for the fourth time. He defeated Mina Majhi of the BJD from the Keonjhar Assembly. *—PTI*

Mohan Charan Majhi *PHOTO: PTI*

**IN VIJAYANAGARA**

# *Outcry over plan to axe 29,000 trees for mining*

**COOVERCOLLY INDRESH**
**VIJAYANAGARA, 11 JUNE**

Environmentalists have raised a hue and cry over a proposal submitted to State seeking permission to cut down 29,400 trees in Vijayanagara district. State-owned Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Plant (VISL) wants to cut down the trees across 150 acres in Sandur and Ramgarh for mining ore.

Before Supreme Court's crackdown on illegal mining in 2011, Ballari district housed 99 mines. More than 61 of them fell into the C category (mines where operations illegally extended their lease boundaries by more than 15%) due to rampant illegal mining and environmental degradation.

Although 13 C category mines have been auctioned, the proposal submitted by Deputy Conservator of Forests (DCF) for the mining has raised alarms about potential biodiversity loss in the region.

In 2014, VISL officials visited Ramgarh to identify the 150 acres of dense forest for mining. However, strong opposition from local organisations, including Samaj Parivartan Samudaya and Jana Sangrama Parishad, halted the mine demarcation.

On one hand, Karnataka Mines Environment Rehabilitation Corporation has invested Rs 130 crore to plant saplings in C-category mines to mitigate the environmental damage. On the other

*PHOTO: SALAR*

hand, the proposal to allow VISL to cut down the 29,400 trees highlights a contradictory approach by the corporation. Environmentalists argued that if VISL needs mining space, it should be allocated from thousands of hectares marked as C-category mines, rather than destroying a thriving forest ecosystem. They urged the State government to recall the decision made by Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) on 28 March, 2016, which stated that no new forest areas should be allocated for mining under any circumstances. Sandur-Ramgarh forest area, known as the 'Oxygen Bank of North Karnataka', spans 90,000 hectares with a forest density of 0.4. The forest is home to 91 plant species, including sandalwood, teak and banyan trees, many of which are unique to this region, and mammals such as leopards, pangolins, peacocks, vultures and bears.

"The Union government should not approve cutting of trees for any reason. The destruction of such large greenery would affect the ecology," environmentalist Joseph Hoover told Salar News. "The government should make a decision with like-minded individuals to allocate C and B category mines to VISL, rather than targeting forested areas for mining," said SR Hiremath, founder of Jana Sangrama Parishad in Dharwad.

Sandeep Suryavamshi, DCF of Ballari division, told Salar News, "Such a large quantity of trees can be cut only if Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate gives permission. We have moved the file to PCCF as per the procedure and it will move to Delhi for clearance." *—Salar News*

# Now, UGC varsities to offer admissions twice a year

**NEW DELHI, 11 JUNE**

Indian universities and higher education institutions will now be allowed to offer admissions twice a year on lines of foreign universities with the University Grants Commission giving a go ahead to the plan, UGC chief Jagadesh Kumar said.

The two admission cycles will be July-August and January-February from the 2024-25 academic session.

"If Indian universities can offer admission twice a year, it will benefit many students such as those who missed admission to a university in the July-August session due to a delay in the announcement of board results, health issues, or personal reasons," Kumar told PTI. He explained that biannual admissions will also enable the higher education institutes (HEIs) to plan their resource distribution, such as faculty, labs, classrooms and support services, more efficiently, resulting in a better functional flow within the university.

Kumar, however, clarified that it will not be mandatory to offer biannual admissions for universities and those HEIs that have the required infrastructure and teaching faculty can utilise the opportunity. Previously, the UGC permitted biannual admissions for Open and Distance Learning (ODL) and Online modes, resulting in nearly half a million additional students enrolling. Encouraged by this success, the UGC extended the policy to regular mode programmes. *—PTI*

*PHOTO: PTI*

**If universities can offer admission twice a year, it will benefit students who missed admission in July-August session due to a delay in board results the announcement**
-Jagadesh Kumar, UGC Chief

PHOTO: FREPIK

## Two shops gutted in separate fire incidents in State

**MANGALURU, 11 JUNE**

In two separate fire incidents, a vegetable market in Thokkuttu near Mangaluru and a furniture shop in Udupi were gutted, police said on Tuesday. According to the fire brigade, a vegetable and fruit market in Kallapu village in Dakshina Kannada district caught fire in the wee hours of Monday. The fire fighters doused the blaze. According to the regional fire officer CR Ranganath, the cause of the fire is under investigation, but an electrical short circuit cannot be ruled out. In the second incident, a furniture and electronics shop in Trasi in Kundapur taluk of Udupi caught fire late on Sunday. *—PTI*

## Hyderabad youth drowns at Hebbe waterfalls

**CHIKKAMAGALURU, 11 JUNE**

A 25-year-old youth died after drowning at Hebbe waterfalls in Kemmanagundi in the district, police said on Tuesday. Shravan, a native of Hyderabad, had come to Chikkamagaluru with his friend to visit scenic places. They reached Chikkamagaluru by bus and took a bike on rent. After visiting a few places, they reached Hebbe Falls on Monday. "Due to the monsoon, the waterfall is at its full might. It wasn't very deep, but the rocks were very slippery. Though they did not know swimming, they decided to enter the water," a police officer told PTI. *—PTI*

## Mega inclusive job fair for youth with spl needs on 22 June

**BENGALURU, 11 JUNE**

Association of People with Disability (APD) and Bangalore Chamber of Industry and Commerce (BCIC) are joining forces to host a Mega Inclusive Job Fair aimed at empowering young people with special needs. The event will be held on 22 June from 9am to 3pm at Maharani Lakshmi Ammanni College for Women (Autonomous) in Malleshwaram, Bengaluru. Over 50 companies from various sectors, including BPO, Retail, BFSI, Automotive, Horticulture, Healthcare, Logistics, Fashion, and Lifestyle, will be present, offering a wide range of job openings. "This job fair not only bridges the gap between employers and talented individuals with disabilities but also emphasizes the importance of inclusivity in the workplace," said Dr. Senthil Kumar, CEO of APD. "Our goal is to empower these individuals by providing them with access to meaningful employment opportunities." Dr S Devarajan, President of BCIC, echoed this sentiment, highlighting the organization's commitment to fostering a more diverse and inclusive industry. The organizers anticipate a significant turnout, with over 500 job seekers expected to attend, and aim to place over 70 per cent of them in suitable positions. *—Salar News*

# Bakrid sheep prices soar due to heat

### Traders said heat, water scarcity has caused a decline in the supply of sheep, pushing up prices

**MEGHANA PRASAD**
**BENGALURU, 11 JUNE**

With Eid al-Adha, also known as Bakrid, just around the corner, Muslims in the city gear up to celebrate the much-awaited festival. However, Bengaluru residents are returning home empty-handed without buying any sheep or goats as the prices of the animals have skyrocketed by at least 50 per cent.

Sheep traders blame the price rise on extreme heat and water scarcity, which led to the deaths of livestock due to heatstroke. This has caused a decline in the supply of sheep and goats, pushing up prices.

Rayappan, a livestock trader from Tumakuru selling sheep near TV Tower, told Salar News that he had raised 150 sheep and 100 goats this year. However, only 90 sheep and 65 goats survived the extreme heat.

The price of sheep in 2023 ranged from Rs 15,000 to Rs 20,000. Now, it has shot up to Rs 30,000 to Rs 50,000, depending on the size and weight of the animal. The heaviest animals, weighing up to 50kg to 70kg, can cost Rs 60,000 to 70,000. Meanwhile, sheep or goats weighing 30kg to 40kg can cost between Rs 30,000 and 40,000.

Chamarajpet, the hub of the sheep trade in the city during Bakrid where at least 500 sheep are sold daily during this period, wore a deserted look. Nagaraju, another seller from Ballari who sources his sheep from farmers' village fairs before bringing them to the city for sale, said, "I could only get 40 sheep this year, and out of that, only eight have been sold in the last two weeks."

Shoaib Khan, a resident of RT Nagar, said he was forced to purchase sheep at double the price compared to last year. "I bought two sheep for

Sheep are for sale at Chamarajpet market on Tuesday *PHOTO: SALAR*

Rs 30,000 last year, and this year only one sheep is costing Rs 30,000, which means Rs 60,000 for two of them," he told Salar News.

Shazia Banu, a housewife and resident of Chamarajpet, purchased Jamunapari goats for Rs 30,000 last year. This year, she paid Rs 80,000 for one goat. "These prices are outrageous," she said.

Kenguri, Hassan, Sira, Bannur, Yalaga, and Kukumpalli are favorite sheep breeds in Bengaluru. Out of these, Bannur and Sira are the most in demand. A good quality Bannur sheep costs between Rs 40,000-60,000, while a Sira sheep is priced at Rs 40,000 to 50,000. Sudhir Krishna, a veterinarian near Kaggalipura, told Salar News that sheep and goats cannot tolerate high heat. He said the first sign of heatstroke is reduced feed intake. "As their bodies struggle to stay cool, they focus energy on essential functions, sacrificing digestion. This can damage the intestinal lining and weaken the immune system, making them more susceptible to illness. In severe cases, weight loss and even death can occur," he said.

He added that this can be avoided by ensuring the animals have access to cool, fresh water at all times. Offering shade throughout the day to the animals also helps immensely. *—Salar News*

| LIVESTOCK BREED | PRICES IN 2023 | PRICES IN 2024 |
|---|---|---|
| BOER GOAT | ₹ 22,000 | ₹ 40,000 |
| JAMUNAPARI | ₹ 30,000 | ₹ 50,000 |
| KENGURI | ₹ 15,000- 18,000 | ₹ 30,000 |
| BANNUR | ₹ 30,000 | ₹ 40,000- 60,000 |
| SIRA | ₹ 15,000- 20,000 | ₹ 30,000- 40,000 |
| HASSAN | ₹ 15,000 | ₹ 25,000 |
| YALAGA | ₹ 18,000 | ₹ 28,000 |

# 1-time property tax settlement till 31 July

**BENGALURU, 11 JUNE**

In a major relief to property and home owners in Bengaluru, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar announced a 'One Time Settlement' (OTS) window till 31 July for paying outstanding property tax. The OTS scheme offers a 50 per cent concession on penalties and a 100 per cent concession on interest payments.

"BBMP had not actively pursued property tax payments due to the recent elections. I encourage everyone to take advantage of the OTS to clear their outstanding payments," Shivakumar said at Vidhana Soudha on Tuesday.

The property tax is the primary source of revenue for BBMP. About 4 lakh citizens have not paid their property tax, totalling the dues to around Rs 1,000 crore. To tackle this issue, Shivakumar announced the OTS scheme. "There are 20 lakh properties in the tax bracket, but many are still outside. Those who pay their taxes and submit proof within 90 days will receive a property tax clearance slip. Those who don't will be considered defaulters starting 1 August," Shivakumar said.

Citizens can use the online portal at https://bbmptax.karnataka.gov.in to pay the property tax. Property tax arrears have been reduced as per the OTS on the portal, but they will revert to normal rates from 1 August, 2024. For any clarifications, the public can contact Sahaya Helpline at 1533 or visit your local ARO Offices.

DK Shivakumar with BBMP Chief Engineer Tushar Girinath *PHOTO: SALAR*

> **BMP had not actively pursued property tax payments due to the recent elections. I encourage everyone to take advantage of the OTS to clear their outstanding payments**
>
> -DK Shivakumar, Deputy Chief Minister

### Property digitisation to be over in 3 months

Shivakumar said the digitising of 20 lakh properties in the City is under process. "Around 8 lakh properties have been digitised, and the remaining will be completed in the next three months.

Once the process is finished, digital records will be delivered to property owners." *—Salar News*

## Mysuru property tax deadline extended till July

**MYSURU, 11 JUNE**

Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) has extended the deadline for property tax payments with a 5 per cent discount until July 2024. This comes after an initial 30-day deadline proved insufficient due to technical glitches and the absence of officials during the Lok Sabha polls.

Earlier, a 5 per cent concession was offered for payments made between 1 and 30 April. However, many residents were unable to benefit due to online payment issues and disruptions caused by public holidays and elections.

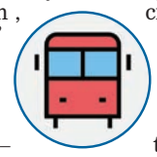
This move follows a successful month for property tax collection. In May alone, the MCC collected Rs 92.24 crore, putting them on track to achieve their annual target of Rs 220 crore for the financial year 2024-25. This represents significant increase of Rs 7.81 crore compared to the previous year. *—Salar News*

## K'taka women availed 227 cr free rides in govt buses in 1 year: Minister

**BENGALURU, 11 JUNE**

Women in State have availed themselves of 227 crore free rides in government non-luxury buses the 'Shakti' guarantee in the last one year, costing the exchequer Rs 5,526.64 crore, Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy said on Tuesday.

Congress, led by Siddaramaiah, launched the 'Shakti' scheme –one of the five guarantees, which the party had promised before the Assembly elections – on 11 June, 2023.



As the government celebrates one year of 'Shakti' implementation, Reddy said that 226.95 women travelled free of cost in government buses.

Most such rides were accounted for the Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation buses (BMTC-71.45 crore), followed by Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC-69.5 crore).

North West Karnataka Road Transport Corporation (NWKRTC) and Kalyana Karnataka Road Transport Corporation (KKRTC) posted 52.12 crore and 33.47 crore free rides, respectively. KSRTC incurred an expenditure of Rs 2,111.14 crore, NWKRTC Rs 1,352.68 crore, KKRTC Rs 1,125.81 crore and BMTC Rs 937.01 crore.

Reddy said several measures have been taken to improve the public transport system such as approval for the induction of 5,800 new buses. In addition, 2,438 new buses have been inducted across the four transport corporations in recent times.

According to him, the State inducted new buses with brand name 'Pallakki', 'Ashwamedha Classic', 'Kalyana Ratha' and 'Amogha Varsha'. *—Salar News*

# 90 days after girl died at kindergarten, forensic report still awaited

**BENGALURU, 11 JUNE**

Six months after the death of 4-year-old Gianna Ann Jito at a preschool building in Bengaluru, there still has not been a lead in the case. The forensic reports are not yet released due to which the charge sheet has not been filed and the case remains unsolved. When asked about why the forensic report has not been released yet, Hennur police inspector, Deepak L, told Salar News, "We have sent letters to the FSL about the forensic reports but the cases in the FSL are done based on a priority." "In which world does it take six months for a forensic report to be submitted? The delay in submitting the FSL report and filing the charge sheet smacks suspicion in the case," said a relative.

On 22 January, Gianna from Manimala in Kerala fell from

Gianna Ann Jito *PHOTO: SALAR*

the 3rd floor of Delhi Pre-school in Challakere. She succumbed to her injuries on 25 January. The school authorities at first told the parents that she had hit her head on a wall and died but later admitted that she had fallen from the terrace and died. The parents claim the CCTV footage was doctored. "A person went to the school the day after my daughter died and fiddled with the visuals. No police official is coming forward to tell us what the forensic report is all about or where the investigation is headed. Who do we approach and how do we get justice for our daughter who died for no fault of hers? Which child would venture onto the terrace of the school and jump to death?" Gianna's father Joseph said.

Joseph said he spoke to Hennur Police Inspector Deepak L, but whenever he reached out to police he was shunned away with the excuse that the forensic report had not come yet. *—Salar News*

## 3 MINORS AMONG 8 HELD IN GOLD THEFT CASES

**BENGALURU, 11 JUNE**

City police arrested three minors and five others in three separate gold theft cases and recovered 789 grams of gold valued at Rs 51 lakh on Tuesday.

In the first case, "Parappana Agrahara police arrested three minors involved in the theft of 380 grams of gold. Agrahara police examined 60 CCTV cameras to catch the culprits," City Police Commissioner B Dayananda said.

In another similar case, Konanakunte police arrested one person and recovered 235 grams of gold. They sold the stolen gold to two gold dealers at Nagarathpet and police recovered the gold from them. In a similar case, Kumaraswamy police arrested four individuals and seized 174 grams.

20 house owners held over Foreigners Act violations

Central Crime Branch's Anti-Narcotics Wing arrested 20 house owners in the City after foreign nationals were found staying by violating provisions in Foreigners Act.

Commissioner Dayananda said, "According to Foreigners Act, a person who rents out his house to any foreign national must submit Form-C to Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO) within 24 hours. After the approval, the landlords must have certified copies of the Form-C. None of the owners had followed these rules and they were arrested."

13 held for illegal poker game

CCB arrested 13 people for illegal gambling and recovered Rs 5.46 lakh of cash, mobile phones and other goods used by the players to transfer money online. "On Sunday, CCB conducted raids at Koramangala Gaming company and it was found that the company used to induce youth and students to play poker games to gamble." *—Salar News*

Elephant Ashwathama *PHOTO: SALAR*

## ELEPHANT ASHWATHAMA DIES AFTER ELECTROCUTION

**MYSURU, 11 JUNE**

Elephant Ashwathama, 38, which participated in Dasara celebrations, died on Tuesday after getting electrocuted by a solar fence. Ashwathama, who was at Bhimanakatte Elephant Camp under Nagarhole Wildlife Sanctuary, was foraging in the forest when it came into contact with a solar fence erected on the border of the forest, according to officials. The elephant was captured in Sakaleshpur taluk, Hassan district, 2017. The elephant was introduced to Dasara festivities in 2021 and underwent extensive training, including walking drills. Ashwathama garnered attention for its role in Dasara in 2022, although it did not participate in Jambu Savari procession. *—Salar News*

## Kodagu residents brace for landslides as rains hit

**MADIKERI, 11 JUNE**

Heavy rains and fog in Kodagu have triggered panic among residents residing in hilly areas, with the looming threat of landslides and floods casting a shadow. Concerns extend to layouts in Madikeri too, where several neighbourhoods are considered prone to landslides.

Areas such as Indira Nagar, Chamundeshwari Nagar, Mangaladevi Nagar, Putani Nagar, Jyoti Nagar, and Thyagaraja Colony are identified as high-risk zones. The district disaster management team and administration, taking these concerns seriously, convened a meeting and directed the Madikeri Municipal Council to initiate precautionary measures.

Estimates suggest over 300 houses in these areas could be impacted by landslides.

The situation is particularly worrisome for families who have already borne the brunt of previous landslides in Chamundeshwari Nagar and Indira Nagar since 2018. While some have been relocated to Karnangeri, K Nidugane, and Jambur. *—Salar News*

## B'luru becomes C40 City for climate mitigation steps

**BENGALURU, 11 JUNE**

Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister DK Shivakumar announced that Bengaluru has become a C40 category city for its efforts in mitigating climate change. C40 is a global network of the world's leading cities that are united in action to confront the climate crisis by cutting down on greenhouse gas emissions and carrying out other ecofriendly activities.

The recognition is credited to a Climate Action Cell set up by State government for the Capital City.

The cell includes representation from departments such as BWSSB, BESCOM, BMTC, BTP, BMRCL, DULT, solid waste management, Pollution Control Board, forest, industry and mining, Shivakumar said on Tuesday.

To address water scarcity, the Climate Action Cell is launching a crowd-sourcing activity for mapping open wells, which have been integral to Bengaluru's water security.

Identified wells will be rejuvenated through a scientifically developed standard operating protocol.

Shivakumar announced 'Fellows of Climate Action Cell' programme, which will recruit young professionals with relevant experience to support climate actions in Bengaluru. *—Salar News*

## WILL STEEL PLANTS BE PRIVATISED?, CONG ASKS HDK

**NEW DELHI, 11 JUNE**

Congress on Tuesday asked new Steel Minister HD Kumaraswamy whether he will give an assurance that steel plants, including the ones in Visakhapatnam and Salem, will not be privatised.

Kumaraswamy is new Steel Minister in a "rusted" government, Congress General Secretary Jairam Ramesh said and posed a set of five questions relating to steel plants in Visakhapatnam, Salem, Nagarnar, Bhadrawati and Durgapur. He said that the previous govt had proposed the sale of RINto the prime minister's friends. *—PTI*

**5 AM TO 10 PM**

## *B'luru park timings extended*

**BENGALURU, 11 JUNE**

City parks will now remain open from 5am to 10pm giving uninterrupted access to the citizens. This action comes after BBMP received complaints that public parks under it are not available to the citizens at any time of the day as many working officials have different timings.

Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister DK Shivakumar, who is also in charge of City's Development, on Tuesday scrapped the earlier timings of the parks which were open from 5 am to 10 am and from 1:30 pm to 8 pm.

Bengaluru boasts more than

Representational Image *PHOTO: PTI*

1,200 public parks and the new extended hours will apply to parks under Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) jurisdiction. To enhance the safety of the parks, Shivakumar announced a helpline number to report complaints and assured that measures are in place to prevent "illegal or unwanted" activities in parks, with cameras installed at entry and exit points. The Bengaluru Development Minister appealed to the public to report any illegal or unwanted activities via call at 080 22660000, 22221188 and via WhatsApp at 9480685700. *—Salar News*

- Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, who is also in charge of City's Development, scrapped the earlier timings of the parks which were open from 5 am to 10 am and from 1:30 pm to 8 pm

PHOTO: PTI

## Need to normalise obsessive work culture: Kangana

NEW DELHI, 11 JUNE

Stressing the need to "normalise obsessive work culture", actor and BJP MP Kangana Ranaut on Tuesday said Indians can't afford to be lazy as the country is yet to become a developed nation. Ranaut shared her thoughts in an Instagram Story, in which she posted a video clip of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's address to the staffers of the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) after he began his third term on Monday. "My every moment is for the country," Modi had said, asserting that he has promised to work round the clock to achieve the goal of India becoming a developed country by 2047. "We need to normalise obsessive work culture and stop with waiting for the weekends and complaining about Mondays memes. —PTI

## Sued by Malviya, lawyer says words 'misinterpreted'

KOLKATA, 11 JUNE

Kolkata-based lawyer Santanu Sinha, who was served a legal notice for making "false and defamatory allegations" against BJP's IT head Amit Malviya and the party's West Bengal unit, on Tuesday claimed that his statements were "misinterpreted". Sinha also said he was not withdrawing the social media post but expressed "heartfelt sorrow" if it hurt Malviya. "If my post hurts Malviya and/or undermines my party for such misinterpretation and edited version, I do express my heartfelt sorrow for the same. Since I have not written anything untoward in my post, with the mission to malign, I am not withdrawing the post, the bone of contention," he said in a Facebook post. BJP IT department head Amit Malviya has sent a legal notice to Sinha. —PTI

## Jailed J'khand min Alamgir resigns from state cabinet

RANCHI, 11 JUNE

Jharkhand Minister Alamgir Alam, who is in jail in connection with a money laundering case, has resigned from the state cabinet and also as the leader of Congress Legislature Party (CLP), an official said on Tuesday. In a letter to Chief Minister Champai Soren from Birsa Munda Central Jail, Ranchi, Alam tendered his resignation as a cabinet minister, he said. Alam, in another letter to AICC chief Mallikarjun Kharge, said, "I hereby submit my resignation from the post of leader of Congress Legislature Party, Jharkhand. I shall remain grateful to the party leadership for providing me an opportunity to work and serve as CLP leader." —PTI

## Jarange refuses to take fluids as his fast enters day 4

JALNA, 11 JUNE

Activist Manoj Jarange on Tuesday refused to take intravenous fluids despite the doctors' advice as his indefinite fast over demands related to Maratha reservation entered the fourth day. Jarange, who has been demanding reservation for the Marathas under the OBC category, has launched a fresh hunger strike at his Antarwali Sarati village in central Maharashtra's Jalna district. A team from the government rural hospital examined him in the morning. His blood pressure and sugar level were low, and he was advised to take intravenous fluids, a doctor told the media. Jarange, however, said he would not take any IV fluids. "It seems the government is least worried about our plight. The Maratha community will teach them a lesson," he told reporters. —PTI

# Law ministry clears litigation policy document

### The policy document will be placed before the Union Cabinet in the coming days for its approval

NEW DELHI, 11 JUNE

After going back to the drawing board on several occasions, the Union Law Ministry finalised on Tuesday a document on the national litigation policy that seeks to expedite the resolution of pending cases.

Soon after assuming charge as the Union law minister earlier in the day, Arjun Ram Meghwal signed the national litigation policy "document". The policy document will be placed before the Union Cabinet in the coming days for its approval.

The policy is part of the 100-day agenda of the Modi 3.0 government, sources said. Interacting with reporters soon after taking charge, Meghwal said a key priority of the ministry would be faster justice in matters pending in the Supreme Court, high courts, lower courts, tribunals and consumer courts.

**STREAMLINED LITIGATION**

- The policy will address high legal costs
- It is aimed at reducing pendency of lawsuits in courts
- It aims to transform the government into an efficient and responsible litigant

A senior functionary said the issues flagged by the minister relating to the pendency of cases have been conceptualised in the document. "It was the first file he wanted to sign," the official said. The national litigation policy has been drafted and redrafted over several years with successive governments deliberating on its contours."There is a factor of ease of living in all the stakeholders related to litigation... All stakeholders, including litigants, advocates and others are part of it... the ministry has finalised the policy document," Meghwal said.

In the UPA II, the then-law minister M Veerappa Moily came out with a national litigation policy but it never went forward. While Moily had come out with the policy, he did not send it for the Union Cabinet's approval.

Later, when the document went to the Cabinet, no decision was taken on it. An official statement issued on 23 June, 2010, said that the Centre has formulated a National Litigation Policy to reduce the cases pending in various courts in India under the National Legal Mission to reduce the average pendency time from 15 years to three years. —PTI

BJP MP Arjun Ram Meghwal takes charge as MoS (Independent Charge) for Law and Justice, in New Delhi PHOTO: PTI

# NDA elects Chandrababu as CM candidate in Andhra

Bihar CM Nitish Kumar, N Chandrababu Naidu ahead of the oath-taking ceremony of PM-designate Narendra Modi for the 3rd term PHOTO: PTI

AMARAVATI, 11 JUNE

In a meeting of Telugu Desam Party (TDP), Janasena and BJP legislators, held in Vijayawada, the MLAs elected Naidu unanimously after Janasena chief Pawan Kalyan proposed him as the leader, who was also backed by state BJP chief D Purandeswari. Consequently, Naidu emerged as the Chief Ministerial candidate.

TDP Supremo N Chandrababu Naidu was on Tuesday elected as NDA leader in the Andhra Pradesh legislative Assembly.

Addressing the meeting, Naidu said, "With all your cooperation, I am swearing in tomorrow (as the CM) and I would like to thank you all for that. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is coming for the swearing-in ceremony."

Announcing that he will take charge as the Chief Minister for the fourth time, Naidu said he had asked for the Central government's cooperation for the southern state and it was 'assured'. He vowed that Amaravati would be the sole capital of Andhra Pradesh and also promised to complete the Polavaram Project.

Further, he said the port city of Visakhapatnam will be developed as the economic capital. —PTI

### Pawan elected as Janasena leader

AMARAVATI, 11 JUNE

Janasena party MLAs on Tuesday elected party chief Pawan Kalyan as the floor leader in the Andhra Pradesh Assembly.The move came ahead of NDA legislators' meeting to elect TDP supremo N Chandrababu Naidu as their leader in the House. Janasena Tenali legislator N Manohar proposed Pawan Kalyan's name as the floor leader in the Assembly. —PTI

## NAIDU DECLARES AMARAVATI AS CAPITAL CITY

AMARAVATI, 11 JUNE

A day before his swearing-in as the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, TDP supremo N Chandrababu Naidu announced that Amaravati will be the sole capital of the state.

Naidu made this announcement, addressing a joint meeting of TDP, BJP and Janasena legislators, where he was unanimously elected as NDA leader in the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly. "In our government, there will be no games under the guise of three capitals. Our capital is Amaravati. Amaravati is the capital," asserted Naidu.

As the first chief minister of bifurcated Andhra Pradesh between 2014 and 2019, he had floated the idea of Amaravati as the capital city. However, this brainchild of Naidu suffered a setback in 2019 when the TDP lost power and YS Jagan Mohan Reddy-led YSRCP won a landslide victory.

Reddy poured cold water on the Amaravati capital city plans and propounded a new theory of three capitals, which Naidu has now replaced with the decision to have a single capital. —PTI

NCP (Sharadchandra Pawar) chief Sharad Pawar and party leader Jayant Patil address the media, in Mumbai, on Thursday PHOTO: PTI

# Sharad Pawar asks if Modi has mandate for third term as PM

PUNE, 11 JUNE

With Prime Minister Narendra Modi taking the oath of office for a historic third successive term, NCP (SP) President Sharad Pawar sought to know whether he had the mandate to lead the country.

The saffron party fell short of majority in the just-concluded Lok Sabha elections and had to take support of its allies to form the new coalition government at the Centre, he noted on Monday. The senior politician was speaking at a party congregation in Ahmednagar, around 125 km from Pune, on the occasion of the NCP's 25th foundation day where newly-elected party MPs were felicitated.

"Modi took the oath as Prime Minister. But before taking the oath, did he have the mandate of the country? Did the people of the country give him consent? They (BJP) did not have a majority. They had to take the help of the Telugu Desam Party and Bihar Chief Minister (Nitish Kumar).... because of them he could form the government," Pawar said.

The former Union minister also remarked that the new BJP-led NDA government was different from the earlier ones. "During the election period, Modi, wherever he went (for campaigning), did not refer to the government as 'Government of India'...it used to be called Modi Sarkar, Modi's guarantee. Today that Modi guarantee is no longer there.

Pawar said the people of Ayodhya have demonstrated how to correct the "politics of temple" by defeating BJP's candidate in the Uttar Pradesh town in recent Lok Sabha elections."He (PM) said if power goes into the hands of these people, they will snatch away mangalsutras of women etc. Have such things ever happened in the country?" Pawar said. —PTI

## THACKERAY WORKED HARD BUT CONG, NCP BENEFITTED: BJP

MUMBAI, 11 JUNE

BJP leader Chandrakant Patil on Tuesday said though Uddhav Thackeray took a great deal of efforts during the Lok Sabha elections campaign, the allies Congress and NCP (SP) seem to have benefitted more than his own party.

Thackeray was not keeping well but he still campaigned hard, said Patil, a senior Maharashtra minister, at an event here.

"Uddhav Thackeray's health was not in good condition, still he took a lot of efforts. I was worried about his health. However, the outcome indicates that NCP (SP) and Congress benefitted more from his efforts than his own party. "When Thackeray was with BJP, his party had won 18 Lok Sabha seats. With Congress and NCP (SP), he ended up winning nine seats. He needs to introspect," Patil further said.

Thackeray's Shiv Sena (UBT) contested 21 out of 48 Lok Sabha seats in the state, but won only nine. Congress, on the other hand, contested 17 and won 13. Congress leader and rebel candidate in Sangli Lok Sabha constituency also won and later extended support to the party. The NCP (Sharadchandra Pawar) contested 10 seats and won eight. —PTI

Uddhav Thackeray PHOTO: PTI

## 66 pc mins in new council aged between 51-70 yrs: ADR

NEW DELHI, 11 JUNE

A recent analysis by poll body Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) has revealed a predominant presence of senior leaders, aged between 51 to 70 years, in the nation's political landscape.

According to the ADR, 47 out of 71 ministers -- accounting for 66 per cent -- in the new council of ministers have declared their age between 51 and 70 years. The report analysed 71 ministers, providing insights into the age distribution within this group. The data indicates that a significant majority of the ministers fall within the age bracket of 51 to 70 years. Specifically, 66 per cent of the ministers, amounting to 47 individuals, are within this age range.

Breaking down this category further, 22 ministers are aged between 51 and 60 years, while the remaining 25 are between 61 and 70 years old. In the younger age brackets, 24 per cent of the ministers are aged between 31 and 50 years. This group includes 17 ministers, with two ministers in the 31-40 age range and 15 ministers in the 41-50 age range.

The report also identified a small but noteworthy segment of the ministers who are aged between 71 and 80 years. This group consists of seven ministers, representing 10 per cent of the total analysed. —PTI

# 99% of new mins are crorepatis, average asset worth ₹107 cr: ADR

NEW DELHI, 11 JUNE

Seventy out of 71 or 99 per cent of the ministers in the new council of ministers are crorepatis with average assets among them amounting to Rs 107.94 crores, according to poll rights body ADR.

Among the ministers, six stand out for their particularly high asset declarations, each exceeding Rs 100 crores, the Association of Democratic Reforms (ADR) said.

Chandra Sekhar Pemmasani, Minister of State in the Ministry of Rural Development and Minister of State in the Ministry of Communications, tops the list with a staggering total asset declaration of Rs 5705.47 crores. His assets include Rs 5598.65 crores in movable assets and Rs 106.82 crores in immovable assets.

> Seventy out of 71 or 99 per cent of the ministers in the new council of ministers are crorepatis with average

Minister of Communications and Minister of Development of North Eastern Region Jyotiraditya M. Scindia has declared total assets worth Rs 424.75 crores. His portfolio comprises Rs 62.57 crores in movable assets and Rs 362.17 crores in immovable assets.

Minister of Heavy Industries and Minister of Steel HD Kumaraswamy from the Janata Dal (Secular) has total assets valued at R. 217.23 crores. His assets include Rs 102.24 crores in movable assets and Rs 115.00 crores in immovable assets.

Minister of Railways, Minister of Information and Broadcasting and Minister of Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw has declared assets totaling Rs 144.12 crores, which include Rs. 142.40 crores in movable assets and Rs 1.72 crores in immovable assets. —PTI

## PM TO TRAVEL TO ITALY FOR G7 SUMMIT THIS WEEK

BALODABAZAR, 11 JUNE

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to travel to Italy this week to attend the annual summit of G7 advanced economies in his first trip abroad after assuming office for the third straight term.

The G7 summit, to be held in the luxury resort of Borgo Egnazia in Italy's Apulia region from 13 to 15 June, is likely to be dominated by the raging war in Ukraine and the conflict in Gaza.Sources said Modi's planned trip said he is set to leave for Italy on 13 June and will return late on 14 June. —PTI

**'OVERCONFIDENCE' SLAMMED**

# *Results reality check for BJP: RSS magazine*

NEW DELHI, 11 JUNE

Lok Sabha poll results have come as a reality check for "overconfident" BJP workers and many of its leaders as they were happy in their "bubble" and enjoying the glow of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's aura but not listening to the voices on the streets, an RSS-linked magazine has said.

An article in the latest issue of "Organiser" magazine also noted that though the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) is not a "field force" of BJP, the party leaders and workers did not reach out to its 'swayamsevaks' (volunteers) seeking their cooperation in electoral work.

BJP with 240 seats fell short of a majority but NDA secured the mandate with 293 seats in the Lok Sabha polls PHOTO: PTI

Neglect of older dedicated workers who worked without the urge for recognition by the new age social media-aided selfie powered activists was also evident in the poll results, it said."Results of 2024 general elections have come as a reality check for overconfident BJP karyakartas and many leaders. They did not realise that Modiji's call of 400 plus (seats) was a target for them and a dare to the Opposition," Ratan Sharda, a life-long member of the RSS, noted in the article.

BJP with 240 seats fell short of a majority but NDA secured the mandate with 293 seats in the Lok Sabha polls. Congress bagged 99 seats while INDIA bloc got 234 seats.

BJP fared poorly in Maharashtra as it could win only nine seats compared to the 2019 tally of 23 constituencies out of the total 48. Shiv Sena led by Shinde faction bagged seven seats and Ajit Pawar-led NCP just one. —PTI

## Naidu and Nitish are 'dissatisfied souls': Raut

MUMBAI, 11 JUNE

Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut on Tuesday claimed that BJP allies Nitish Kumar and N Chandrababu Naidu were "dissatisfied souls" following the allocation of portfolios in the Union cabinet.

Talking to reporters here, he also latched onto the term "bhatakti aatma" used by Prime Minister Narendra Modi for NCP (SP) Chief Sharad Pawar, and said this `wandering restless soul' will not rest until BJP-led governments at the Centre and in Maharashtra were dislodged.

If RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat thought that the NDA government at the Centre was not in the interest of the country, he should pull it down,sir member said.

In the portfolio allocation on Wednesday, Lalan Singh of Nitish Kumar's Janata Dal-United got the Panchayati Raj, Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Ministries, while TDP's K Rammohan Naidu got the Civil Aviation Ministry.JD(S) leader HD Kumarswamy was given the "most rejected" portfolio, Raut commented. Kumarswamy has got Heavy Industries and Steel ministries. BJP kept everything for itself, Raut claimed."Modi had made it clear during the polls. They want to place a wedge between Hindus and Muslims in the country. He thinks Muslims have not voted for BJP, which is why they are not in the cabinet," Raut said —PTI

PHOTO: PIXABAY

## Chinese man dies after attempting suicide in Bihar jail

**MUZAFFARPUR, 11 JUNE**

A Chinese man, accused of entering India illegally, died on Tuesday after he allegedly made a suicide attempt at a jail in Bihar's Muzaffarpur district, officials said. Li Jiaqi of China's Shandong province was arrested on 6 June near Laxmi Chowk in the Brahmapura police station area for not having valid travel documents, including visa. A map of China, a mobile phone and currencies of China, Nepal and India were found in his possession, they said. A case was registered under The Foreigners Act, 1946, and subsequently, he was sent to jail and lodged at the Amar Shaheed Khudiram Bose Central Prison, they added. "On 7 June, he was found injured and unconscious in the toilet of the prison's hospital after attempting to cut his important body parts with broken eyeglasses. He was immediately shifted to Sri Krishna Medical College and Hospital (SKMCH), Muzaffarpur, by the jail authorities, where he succumbed to injuries on Tuesday," said a statement issued by the hospital. *—PTI*

## 3 LeT workers held for possessing IED in J&K

**SRINAGAR, 11 JUNE**

Three over ground workers of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) have been arrested in Jammu and Kashmir's Pulwama district in connection with the recovery of two improvised explosive devices, police said on Tuesday.The explosive devices, weighing about six kgs, were recovered on Sunday and were destroyed a day later, a police official said.During further investigation following the killing of LeT commander Reyaz Dar and his associate Rayees Dar on 3 June, police recovered the explosives from the over ground workers (OGW) network of the slain terrorists, the official said.He said three OGWs have been arrested for providing shelter and logistic support to the slain terrorists. *—PTI*

## 'Free Kashmir' graffiti found on park wall in Delhi

**NEW DELHI, 11 JUNE**

An objectionable graffiti was found on a wall of a park in the Dwarka North area here, police said on Tuesday.A First Information Report (FIR) has been registered in the matter.The graffiti reading "Free Kashmir" was found on the wall of the DDA park in Dwarka Sector 13 on Monday evening, a police official said.A case has been registered under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code and the Defacement of Property Act at Dwarka North police station. CCTV footage is being scanned to identify the culprits, the official said. *—PTI*

## Woman poses as banker, cons steel firm of ₹54cr

**THANE, 11 JUNE**

The Navi Mumbai police have registered a case against a woman who allegedly posed as an official of a nationalised bank and duped the Mumbai Metropolitan Region Iron & Steel Market Committee of more than Rs 54 crore, an official said on Tuesday.As per the complaint lodged by an official of the Kalamboli-based committee, a woman approached members and office-bearers posing as a manager of a nationalised bank in Panvel in June 2022.She gained their trust and lured them to invest the committee's funds in fixed deposits, promising them a high interest rate after submitting a quotation with fake documents, the official said. *—PTI*

# Russia war trafficking: CBI seeks Interpol notice

### CBI is seeking notice against 3 who pushed people to work in war

**NEW DELHI, 11 JUNE**

The CBI will seek Interpol Red Notice against three accused for their alleged involvement in the human trafficking network that pushed Indians into the Russia-Ukraine war zone in the garb of lucrative employment opportunities in Moscow, officials said Tuesday.

The central probe agency wants the custodial interrogation of alleged hawala operator Ramesh Kumar Palanisamy, Mohammad Moinuddin Chippa, both understood to be in Russia, and Faisal Abdul Mutalib Khan, believed to be in the UAE, to unravel the conspiracy, they said.

An Interpol Red Notice is a request to law enforcement agencies of 196 member countries to locate and provisionally arrest a person pending extradition, surrender or similar legal action. The CBI seeks to extradite the three accused to face legal action and join the investigation.

The CBI had busted major human trafficking networks operating across the country in March which were allegedly pushing the Indian youths to the Russia-Ukraine war front in the garb of providing them with lucrative foreign jobs.

The CBI had busted trafficking networks operating in March which were allegedly pushing the Indians to the Russia war *PHOTO: ANI*

The agency has booked 24x7 RAS Overseas Foundation, KG Marg, and its Director Suyash Mukut, OSD Bros Travels & Visa Services Pvt Ltd., Mumbai and its Director Rakesh Pandey, Adventure Visa Services Pvt Ltd., Chandigarh, Punjab and its Director Manjeet Singh, Baba Vlogs Overseas Recruitment Solutions Pvt Ltd., Dubai and its Director Faisal Abdul Mutalib Khan alias Baba in the FIR.

The modus operandi deciphered by the CBI shows that Dubai-based Faisal Abdul Mutalib Khan allegedly used his YouTube channel to lure Indians into jobs in the Russian army, as security guards, or as helpers, promising a better life, a fat salary, etc., without revealing the nature of the job.

The central probe agency, which has examined the number of victims in the last three months, learned that Khan gave the number of Mohammad Sufiyan and Pooja to interested aspirants to proceed.

The couple allegedly asked the aspirants to deposit money in the accounts of Baba Vlogs, Sufiyan, Moinuddin Chhipa and Sadiq Chhipa and submit their passports to Cosmo Travels Pvt. Ltd, which arranged tourist visas for them on the promise that it would be converted into a work visa.

These job seekers were asked to reach the Chennai Airport, where their passports were handed over to them. They were then given the contact numbers of Nijil Jobi Bensam and Ramesh Kumar Palanisamy, both based in Moscow.

The duo received the candidates in Russia and kept them in a house there, according to the CBI findings. *—PTI*

**JAISHANKAR BACK AS EAM**

# Will resolve border issues with China: EAM

**NEW DELHI, 11 JUNE**

India will focus on resolving the remaining issues along the frontier with China, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Tuesday, amid the over four-year-long border row in eastern Ladakh that significantly strained bilateral ties.

Shortly after taking charge of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Jaishankar, referring to cross-border terrorism emanating from Pakistan, said efforts will be made to address the challenge.

The external affairs minister said, "Bharat First" (India First) and Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam (The world is one family) will be the two guiding axioms of Indian foreign policy.

On ties with China going forward, Jaishankar said some issues remained along the border with that country and efforts will be made to resolve them.

"Our focus with regard to China will be on how to resolve the remaining issues," he told reporters.

The Indian and Chinese militaries have been locked in a standoff since May 2020 and a full resolution of the border row has not yet been achieved though the two sides have disengaged from a number of friction points.

Asked about the new government's approach towards Islamabad, Jaishankar identified Pakistan's support to cross-border terrorism as the key issue.

The external affairs minister also briefly talked about the government's foreign policy priorities.

"Together, we are very confident it will position us as 'Vishwa Bandhu' -- a country which is in a very turbulent world, in a very divided world, a world of conflicts and tensions, it would actually position us as a country which is trusted by many, whose prestige and influence will grow, whose interests will be advanced," he said. *—PTI*

## HC quotes Shakespeare, junks FIR against couple

**CHANDIGARH, 11 JUNE**

Quoting Shakespeare's "a marriage is a matter of more worth, than to be dealt in by attorneyship", the Punjab and Haryana High Court has said that it must consider "with a high degree of latitude" to quash kidnapping cases wherein the accused and the victim had married each other and are "living happily."

The Court also raised concerns over the regular filing of petitions for quashing FIRs wherein the man in the runaway couple is accused of inciting the woman, by the family who is not in favour of marriage.

The court stated that parents must take into account that their children may make choices which are individual to them; and just as life does not tarry with yesterday, certain consequential life events cannot be reversed.

The bench emphasised William Shakespeare's writings in the play "A Midsummer Night's Dream": "Love looks not with the eyes, but with the mind; And therefore is wing'd Cupid painted blind.....", said Justice Sumeet Goel.

PHOTO:X

These observations were made in response to the petitions by a man who was booked in 2009 under Sections 363-A, 366 IPC upon filing of the complaint by the woman's father for allegedly enticing away his daughter for marriage.

The petitioner pleaded that he got married to the alleged victim in 2010 and out of wedlock three children have been born.

*—Courtesy, Live Law.in*

**COMBING OP ENTERS 2ND DAY**

# 20 picked up for questioning in J&K terror attack on bus

**JAMMU, 11 JUNE**

Extensive efforts to track down terrorists involved in the attack on pilgrims in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district continued on Tuesday, with 11 teams of security personnel working on the ground and a multi-directional cordon laid around the Poni-Treyath belt, officials said.

Security forces have sounded a high alert in Jammu and Rajouri districts and intensified checking and frisking in the belt following the terror attack that left nine dead and 41 injured, they said.

According to the officials, more than 20 people have been picked up for questioning.

On Sunday, terrorists opened fire at a bus carrying pilgrims when it was en route from the Shiv Khori temple to the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine in Katra near Teryath village in the Poni area.

The bus, which was ferrying pilgrims from Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Delhi, plunged into a deep gorge following the gunfire.

Terrorists opened fire at a bus carrying pilgrims when it was en route from the Shiv Khori temple to the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine *PHOTO: PTI*

Deputy Inspector General of Police, Udhampur-Reasi Range, Rayees Mohammad Bhat said the security forces have got some leads as 11 teams of police, Army and CRPF are jointly working on two different axes to neutralise the fleeing terrorists.

Sources said security forces suspect the Pakistani terrorists are hiding in the mountainous terrains of Rajouri and Reasi and have intensified combing operations in the region. They are taking directions from Pakistan's ISI through secured communication, the sources said. *—PTI*

- Security forces have sounded a high alert in Jammu and Rajouri districts and intensified checking and frisking in the belt

## DEPUTY CM VISITS VIOLENCE-HIT AREAS IN CH'GARH

**BALODABAZAR, 11 JUNE**

Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Sharma along with two cabinet colleagues on Tuesday visited Chhattisgarh's Balodabazar city, a day after a mob set fire to a government office and scores of vehicles during a protest called by the Satnami community against the alleged vandalisation of a religious structure.

Sharma, who holds the Home portfolio, directed that stern action should be taken against those who indulged in the arson, an official said.

More than two dozen cars, around 70 two-wheelers and a government building were torched at the district office premises after the protest turned violent on Monday.

Several police personnel were also injured in stone-pelting.Unidentified persons vandalised 'jaitkham' or `victory pillar', a sacred symbol worshipped by the Satnami community, near the holy Amar Gufa at Giroudpuri Dham in the district on the intervening night of 15 and 16 May. Police subsequently arrested three persons in connection with the incident. c

## Periyar fish died due to low oxygen, not chemicals: Kerala CM

**T'PURAM, 11 JUNE**

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Tuesday said in the assembly that the recent mass death of fish in the Periyar river resulted due to less dissolved oxygen in the water and there was no discharge of chemical waste from factories into the river.

The Chief Minister made the submission in response to a query by opposition UDF MLA TJ Vinod with regard to action taken against those who allegedly discharged chemical waste into the river resulting in the death of the fish.

Vijayan said that the State Pollution Control Board (PCB) conducted an inspection of the river following the incident and the water samples tested showed dissolved oxygen to be below the levels required for fish to survive.

"According to the preliminary investigation, when the shutter of the Pathalam regulator-cum-bridge was opened following heavy rains, a large amount of oxygen-poor water flowed into the river from the upstream side of the regulator," the Chief Minister said.

PHOTO:X

The initial probe also did not find any discharge of chemical waste into the river from the factories on the shores of the Periyar, he said.

The Chief Minister further said that the PCB will submit its detailed findings only after getting the report of the Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies (KUFOS) on the issue.

Regarding the loss suffered by fish farmers, Vijayan said that preliminary data indicates that it was to the tune of Rs 13.56 crore.

Once recommendations are received regarding the compensation to be given to the fish farmers, they will be examined and appropriate action will be taken, he said in the House. *—PTI*

## AGARTALA WOMAN BEATS 8-YR-OLD SON TO DEATH

**AGARTALA, 11 JUNE**

A woman allegedly brutally beat to death her eight-year-old son in West Joynagar apparently as she could not handle the minor's misbehaviour as per her statement to the police.

The incident took place on Monday evening under the jurisdiction of West Agartala Police Station.The deceased is the son of Ram Gowala and Suprabha Gowala who originally hail from Kailashahar.

According to police, Gowala abandoned the family leaving the accused Suprabha to care for their son alone. The gruesome murder took place at around 6pm, police said.West Tripura Police Station Officer in Charge Paritosh Das said that a case has been filed in the incident under Section 302 of the IPC.Suprabha confessed to the crime in front of the police, stating that she bound her son with a rope and beat him to death with a bamboo stick. *—ANI*

## 13-yr-old apprehended for Delhi airport bomb hoax

**NEW DELHI, 11 JUNE**

A 13-year-old boy has been apprehended for allegedly sending an email to the Delhi airport falsely claiming that a bomb had been planted in a Toronto-bound Air Canada flight, police said on Tuesday. The boy sent the threat "just for fun" to check whether it could be traced back to him or not, they said.

After being apprehended, the boy was produced before the Juvenile Justice Board.

"On June 4, a PCR call was received at 11.25pm regarding a bomb threat e-mail for flight number AC043 scheduled from Delhi to Toronto at the IGI Airport police station," Deputy Commissioner of Police (IGI Airport) Usha Rangnani said.Based on the information received, the Delhi airport was put on high alert and a full emergency was declared on the premises, she said.

"Guidelines and protocols as per the SOP were properly followed to ensure the safety and security of the passengers. After a thorough search of the flight, the threat e-mail was found to be a hoax," said the DCP.On a complaint received from Air Canada airline, an FIR was registered in the matter, Rangnani said.

"During the investigation, it was found that the said email id was created hours before the hoax threat was sent and it was deleted after sending the email," she said.

The investigation led the police team to Meerut in Uttar Pradesh. "The sender of the email turned out to be a 13-year-old boy," the DCP said.

During questioning, the boy told police that he got the idea of sending the hoax bomb threat email after seeing the news about a similar incident at the Mumbai Airport.

He wanted to see whether or not the police would be able to trace him if he sent such an email, Rangnani said. *—PTI*

**HIJAB ROW SPARKS UPROAR**

# *Prof quits college over hijab 'prohibition'*

**KOLKATA, 11 JUNE**

A teacher at a private law college, affiliated to the University of Calcutta, resigned and stopped attending classes after the institute authorities allegedly requested her to refrain from wearing a hijab at the workplace.

However, as the matter became public and sparked an uproar, the college authorities claimed that it resulted from miscommunication, and she would be returning on Tuesday after withdrawing her resignation.

Sanjida Qadar, a teacher at LJD Law College for the past three years, resigned on 5 June, alleging that the college authorities had instructed her not to wear a hijab at the workplace after 31 May.

"The diktat from the college governing body offended my values and religious sentiments," she said.

Expressing solidarity with the teacher, West Bengal minister and Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind president Siddiqullah Chowdhury said the college governing body president should apologise to her.

The college authorities claimed that it resulted from miscommunication *PHOTO: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS*

The veteran Muslim leader also wondered whether the college authorities were working at the behest of the RSS and the BJP.Sanjida had been wearing the headscarf at the workplace since March-April, and the issue seemingly escalated over the past week.

However, after her resignation became public, the college authorities contacted her and insisted that it was merely a miscommunication, clarifying that they had never prohibited her from covering her head with clothes during working hours, sources said.

College governing body chairman Gopal Das told PTI, "There was no directive or prohibition, and the college authorities respect the religious sentiments of everyone. She will resume classes on Tuesday. Now, there is no misunderstanding. We engaged in prolonged discussions with her.

The initial developments were the result of some miscommunication." The teacher said, "I received an email from the office on Monday. I will analyse my next steps and then decide. But I am not going to the college on Tuesday," she said.

The email stated that according to the dress code for all faculty members, which is periodically reviewed and assessed, she was free to use a dupatta or scarf to cover her head while taking classes. *—PTI*

**VOLCANO NEAR GRINDAVIK**

An overall view of the eruption site of the volcano near Grindavik, Iceland, Monday, June 10, 2024. A volcano in southwestern Iceland has been erupting spewing red lava close to the coastal town of Grindavik
***PHOTO: AP/PTI***

# Extreme weather causes over $41b in global damage

The report by the UK-based NGO Christian Aid said four extreme weather events in the past six months to have been made more likely and/or more intense by climate change- killed over 2,500 people ***PHOTO: PTI***

As millions of people in India grapple with blistering heat intensified by climate change, a new report has said extreme weather events have caused over USD 41 billion in damages globally since the international climate talks in Dubai (COP28) in December last year.

The report by the UK-based NGO Christian Aid said four extreme weather events in the past six months- all scientifically shown to have been made more likely and/or more intense by climate change- killed over 2,500 people.

The non-profit organisation said insufficient progress has been made since COP28 in the UAE to move away from fossil fuels or to support lower-income countries in coping with climate disasters.

As the second week of mid-year climate talks in Bonn began on Monday, it said these numbers demonstrate that the costs of the climate crisis are already being felt.

"Rich countries, responsible for the lion's share of the greenhouse gases that are heating the atmosphere and fuelling extreme events, should recognise their historic responsibility and increase their funding to the Loss and Damage Fund to help other countries cope with and recover from extreme weather," Christian Aid said.

Delegates at the UN climate negotiations in Dubai in December agreed on a new loss and damage fund to address the impacts of climate change disproportionately affecting poor communities in the Global South.

The USD 41 billion in damages is an underestimate, according to the charity. Only insured losses are typically reported, and many of the worst disasters have occurred in countries where few people or businesses have insurance, the report said.

The human cost of disasters is also not fully captured in these figures, it added. According to the report, floods that killed at least 169 people in Brazil and caused at least USD 7 billion in economic damages were made twice as likely by climate change.

In South and Southwest Asia, flooding that killed at least 214 people and caused USD 850 million in insured damages in the UAE alone was also made more likely by climate change, it said.

Simultaneous heatwaves in West, South, and Southeast Asia killed over 1,500 people in Myanmar alone, with heat deaths notoriously underreported, the report said. The report said the heatwave is expected to slow growth and increase inflation, and in Southeast Asia, it would have been completely impossible without climate change. In South and West Asia, it was made five and 45 times more likely, respectively, and also hotter.

Flooding from cyclones in East Africa killed 559 people and was made about twice as likely and also more intense by climate change, it said. "We cannot heal the burns caused by the climate crisis while we are still throwing fossil fuels on the fire," Mariana Paoli, Christian Aid's Global Advocacy Lead, who is from Brazil, said.

"We need rich countries, who are largely responsible for causing the climate crisis, to massively scale up funding for climate action. They need to show real creativity and political will, and tax polluters and the super-rich to finance genuine climate action. We need to cancel historic debt owed to rich countries by poor ones, and instead ensure that money is used to improve climate equity, helping everyone to be safer from climate disasters," Paoli said.

The report mentioned that countries in 2015 agreed to limit global average temperature rise to "well below" 2 degrees Celsius and "preferably" to 1.5 degrees Celsius to prevent further worsening of climate impacts, such as droughts, extreme rain, floods, sea level rise, cyclones, heatwaves etc.

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, a group of leading climate scientists, the world needs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 43 per cent by 2030 (compared to 2019 levels) and at least 60 per cent by 2035 to limit warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

Earth's global surface temperature has already increased by around 1.15 degrees Celsius compared to the average in 1850-1900 due to the rapidly increasing concentration of greenhouse gases -- primarily carbon dioxide and methane -- in the atmosphere.

Developing nations argue they cannot be expected to reduce CO2 emissions faster if developed countries -- historically responsible for climate change -- do not provide enhanced financial support. An agreement on New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) or a new climate finance goal will be the key issue at the United Nations climate conference (COP29) in Baku, Azerbaijan, in November.

NCQG is the new amount developed countries must mobilise every year from 2025 onwards to support climate action in developing countries. Rich countries are expected to raise more than the USD100 billion they promised to provide every year from 2020 but repeatedly failed. *—PTI*

## SALAR ساہر

# Maybe you're an ambivert, but are you sure?

Our personalities are generally thought to consists of five primary factors: openness to experience, conscientiousness, extroversion, agreeableness and neuroticism, with each of us ranking low to high for each.

Those who rank high in extroversion, known as extroverts, typically focus on their external world. They tend to be more optimistic, recharge by socialising and enjoy social interaction.

On the other end of the spectrum, introverts are more likely to be quiet, deep thinkers, who recharge by being alone and learn by observing (but aren't necessarily shy).

But what if you're neither an introvert or extrovert – or you're a bit of both? Another category might fit better: ambiverts. They're the middle of the spectrum and are also called "social introverts".

**What exactly is an ambivert?**

The term ambivert emerged in 1923. While it was not initially embraced as part of the introvert-extrovert spectrum, more recent research suggests ambiverts are a distinct category.

Ambiverts exhibit traits of both extroverts and introverts, adapting their behaviour based on the situation.

It may be that they socialise well but need solitude and rest to recharge, and they intuitively know when to do this.

**Ambiverts seems to have the following characteristics:**

- Good communication skills, as a listener and speaker
- Ability to be a peacemaker if conflict occurs
- Leadership and negotiation skills, especially in teams
- Compassion and understanding for others.

Some research suggests ambiverts make up a significant portion of the population, with about two-thirds of people falling into this category.

**What makes someone an ambivert?**

Personality is thought to be 50 per cent inherited, with the remaining being influenced by environmental factors and individual experiences.

Emerging research has found physical locations of genes on chromosomes closely aligned with extroversion-introversion traits.

So, chances are, if you are a blend of the two styles as an ambivert, one of your parents may be too.

**What do ambiverts tend to be good at?**

One area of research focus in recent decades has been personality type and job satisfaction. One study examined 340 introverts, extroverts and ambiverts in sales careers.

It has always been thought extroverts were more successful with sales. However, the author found ambiverts were more influential and successful.

They may have a sales advantage because of their ability to read the situation and modify their behaviour if they notice a customer is not interested, as they're able to reflect and adapt.

Ambiverts stress less than introverts

Generally, people lower in extroversion have higher stress levels. One study found introverts experience more stress than both ambiverts and extroverts.

It may be that highly sensitive or introverted individuals are more susceptible to worry and stress due to being more perfectionistic.

Ambiverts are adept at knowing when to be outgoing and when to be reflective, showcasing a high degree of situational awareness. This may contribute to their overall wellbeing because of how they handle stress.

**What do ambiverts tend to struggle with?**

Ambiverts may overextend themselves attempting to conform or fit in with many social settings. This is termed "overadaptation" and may force ambiverts to feel uncomfortable and strained, ultimately resulting in stress or burnout.

But personality traits aren't fixed

Regardless of where you sit on the scale of introversion through to extroversion, the reality is it may not be fixed.

Different situations may be more comfortable for introverts to be social, and extroverts may be content with quieter moments.

And there are also four other key personality traits – openness to experience, conscientiousness, agreeableness and neuroticism – which we all possess in varying levels, and are expressed in different ways, alongside our levels of extroversion.

There is also evidence our personality traits can change throughout our life spans are indeed open to change.

*—Courtesy, The Conversation*

Ambiverts exhibit traits of both extroverts and introverts, adapting their behaviour based on the situation
***PHOTO: FREEPIK***

**LETTERS** write to us at salar@salar.news

# *Far-right gains in European polls: what they mean for climate goals*

The European Green Party has suffered major losses in the European Parliament elections, while far-right parties have made big gains, according to provisional results. Meanwhile, the centre-right European People's Party (EPP) held ground as the largest party in parliament.

The outcome of last week's vote highlights how climate change is less of a priority for voters across the bloc amid the cost-of-living crisis and Russia's invasion of Ukraine. But the new parliament is unlikely to dismantle key climate goals, say researchers.

"I don't think that there is going to be appetite to completely ditch the Green Deal," says Richard Klein at the Stockholm Environment Institute in Bonn, Germany. The European Green deal, first proposed by the European Commission in 2019, is a set of policies that aims to cut greenhouse gas emissions in the European Union by 55 per cent from 1990 levels by 2030 and reach net-zero emissions by 2050.

"When you look at polling data, there's not much climate scepticism left in Europe," says Aurélien Saussay, an environmental economist at the London School of Economics and Political Science in London. But people disagree on how to deal with climate change, he adds. "That's when the difficulty starts – when measures impact people's standard of living, livelihood and day-to-day habits, that impacts acceptability of climate policies."

**Weaker ambitions**

From 6 June to 9 June, hundreds of millions of Europeans voted to elect 720 Members of the European Parliament, which shapes EU laws and policies. Over the past five years, the parliament has been governed by a majority comprised of the centre-right EPP, centre-left Socialists and Democrats, and the liberal party Renew Europe. They have led Europe's response to climate change and plans for research and innovation.

In this year's elections, the Greens, which called for stronger climate action, are projected to have lost 18 seats overall and performed particularly badly in France and Germany — both major economic powers in the bloc — where far-right parties made gains. The Greens' losses follow months of widespread farmers' protests against environmental policies that planned to cut fuel subsidies and curb the use of pesticides and fertilisers. Before the election, the protests already led the European Union to roll back on such policies, including a plan to halve the use of pesticides in the agricultural sector by 2030. Despite a poor performance overall, the Greens held or gained seats in Denmark, Sweden and the Netherlands.

France's Rassemblement National was one of a handful of far-right parties that saw significant gains in elections for the European Parliament ***PHOTO: EPA***

A weak presence of Greens in the European Parliament could affect negotiations over a goal proposed by the European commission to reduce net greenhouse gas emissions by 90 per cent by 2040, compared to 1990 levels. "It would be easier, and we would probably get a more ambitious goal, if parties explicitly supporting strong climate objectives had a stronger showing in the election," says Saussay.

But Klein does not think the 2040 goal will be scrapped altogether. "Maybe the budgets that will be devoted to these kinds of measures will go down, but I don't see there being a complete overhaul of climate policy," says Klein. Still, it is unlikely that more-ambitious climate goals will be agreed upon in future, he says.

One of the first tasks for MEPs will involve choosing the next president of the European Commission, with current president Ursula von der Leyen, of the EPP, hoping to secure a second term. Until the president is chosen, and the next Commissioner for Climate is elected, it is hard to say with much certainty how EU climate action will play out over the next few years, says Saussay.

The next parliament does look set to continue to prioritise scientific-research funding, says Marta Agostinho, executive director of EU-LIFE, an international alliance of research centres that advocate for research in Europe. "The European Parliament is very supportive on research and innovation, and generally speaking, understands the critical value of investing in it," she says. "According to the election results that we see, I'm still hopeful that this is the case." *—Courtesy, The Natures*

- European Green deal, first proposed by the European Commission in 2019, is a set of policies that aims to cut greenhouse gas emissions in the European Union by 55 per cent from 1990 levels by 2030 and reach net-zero emissions by 2050

PHOTO: X/@IMRANKHANPTI

## Imran claims Pak media forced into silence last 2 years

**LAHORE, 11 JUNE**

Jailed former Pakistan prime minister Imran Khan on Tuesday claimed the media has been forced into silence by the state and journalists who dissent have faced suppression over the last two years in the country. Khan has been lodged at the high-security Adiala Jail at Rawalpindi since his arrest 10 months ago for his involvement in multiple cases, some of which have resulted in conviction. "In Pakistan, the media has always been vulnerable to control by the state while journalists have been targeted for their critical approaches. Over the last two years in Pakistan, the media has been forced into silence, and journalists who dissent face suppression," Khan, 71, said on his X account. The former prime minister's post comes days after Punjab government introduced the 'Punjab Defamation Act 2024,' a controversial legislation about defamation. *—PTI*

## Pakistan arrest 85 Afghans for illegally crossing border

**ISLAMABAD, 11 JUNE**

As many as 85 Afghan nationals have been arrested by security forces in the border district of Chagai district for allegedly crossing into Pakistan illegally, according to officials, Pakistan-based Dawn reported. The Afghan nationals were found on the Pakistani side near the border lacking legal travelling documents. The Afghan nationals entered Pakistan illegally to cross into Iran for further journeys, according to Dawn report. A senior security official said the Afghan nationals were arrested and handed over to the Levies force for further probe. Levies Force officials said that Afghan nationals would be deported through the Baracha crossing gate on the Pakistan-Afghan border after the completion of legal formalities and procedures, Dawn reported.*—ANI*

## Baltimore shipping channel reopens again

**BALTIMORE, 11 JUNE**

The Port of Baltimore shipping channel has fully reopened, 11 weeks after the Francis Scott Key Bridge collapsed when it was struck by a cargo ship. The US Army Corps of Engineers said the passageway where the Key Bridge buckled was now "safe for transit". The 700ft (213m) wide and 50ft (15m) deep channel has been restored to its original operational dimensions. The Dali ship veered into the span on 26 March, cutting off the shipping artery and killing six construction workers. Crews have had to remove 50,000 tonnes of wreckage, the US Army Corps of Engineers said. The crash left the vessel trapped under the wreckage in the Patapsco River. *—BBC News*

## Turbulence: S'pore Airlines to pay passengers

**SINGAPORE, 11 JUNE**

Singapore Airlines on Tuesday offered monetary compensation and a full refund of the airfare to the 211 passengers onboard the flag carrier's turbulence-hit London to Singapore flight last month, which led to the death of one passenger and injured many others. On 21 May, Flight SQ321 en route from London to Singapore encountered extreme turbulence. The Boeing 777-300ER aircraft was carrying 211 passengers and a crew of 18 when it made an emergency landing at Bangkok's Suvarnabhumi Airport. Passengers and crew were thrown up to the plane's ceiling before falling back down, leading to the death of one man and injuries to dozens of others. In a statement, the SIA said compensation offers were sent to passengers on Monday. *—PTI*

# UN Security Council backs US Gaza ceasefire plan

### Antony Blinken welcomes the UN vote in favour of Gaza

**UNITED NATIONS, 11 JUNE**

The UN Security Council on Monday overwhelmingly approved its first resolution endorsing a cease-fire plan aimed at ending the eight-month war between Israel and Hamas in Gaza.

The US-sponsored resolution welcomes a cease-fire proposal announced by President Joe Biden that the United States says Israel has accepted. It calls on the militant Palestinian group Hamas to accept the three-phase plan.

The resolution - which was approved with 14 of the 15 Security Council members voting in favour and Russia abstaining - calls on Israel and Hamas "to fully implement its terms without delay and without condition".

Whether Israel and Hamas agree to go forward with the plan remains in question, but the resolution's strong support in the UN's most powerful body puts added pressure on both parties to approve the proposal. US Secretary of State Antony Blinken was in Israel on Monday, where he urged Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to accept the plan for postwar Gaza as he pushed for more international pressure on Hamas to agree to the cease-fire proposal. Netanyahu has been sceptical of the deal, saying that Israel is still committed to destroying Hamas.

Palestinians look at the aftermath of the Israeli bombing in Nuseirat refugee camp, Gaza Strip *PHOTO: AP/PTI*

Hamas said it welcomed the adoption of the resolution and was ready to work with mediators in indirect negotiations with Israel to implement it. The statement was among the strongest from Hamas to date, but it stressed the group would continue its struggle against Israeli occupation and work on setting up a "fully sovereign" Palestinian state.

"Efforts are continuing to study and clarify some matters to ensure implementation by the Israeli side," Hamas spokesperson Jihad Taha said Tuesday. He said Israel was "stalling and procrastinating and creating obstacles in order to continue the aggression." A senior Israeli diplomat did not directly mention the resolution, telling the council Israel's position is unwavering: "We will continue until all of the hostages are returned and until Hamas' military and governing capabilities are dismantled."

- The US-sponsored resolution welcomes a cease-fire proposal announced by President Joe Biden that the United States says Israel has accepted

"This also means that Israel will not engage in meaningless and endless negotiations, which can be exploited by Hamas as a means to stall for time," Minister Counsellor Reut Shapir Ben Naftaly said.

US deputy ambassador Robert Wood told reporters earlier on Monday that the United States sees the deal as "the best, most realistic opportunity to bring at least a temporary halt to this war". *—AP*

PLANE CRASH

# Malawi's VP, 9 others have died, says Prez

Police officers investigating the crash site on Tuesday; Malawi's Vice President Saulos Chilima (Inset) *PHOTO: X/@JOSEMAHACHI*

**BLANTYRE, 11 JUNE**

Malawi's Vice President and nine others were killed in a plane crash, the country's president said Tuesday.

The wreckage of the military plane carrying Vice President Saulos Chilima was located in a mountainous area in the north of the country after a search that lasted more than a day. There were no survivors of the crash, Malawian President Lazarus Chakwera said in a live address on state television.

Hundreds of soldiers, police officers and forest rangers had been searching for the plane that also carried a former first lady after it went missing Monday morning while making the 45-minute flight from the southern African nation's capital, Lilongwe, to the city of Mzuzu, around 370 kilometres to the north.

Air traffic controllers told the plane not to attempt a landing at Mzuzu's airport because of bad weather and poor visibility and asked it to turn back to Lilongwe, Chakwera said. Air traffic control then lost contact with the aircraft and it disappeared from radar, he said.

Seven passengers and three military crew members were on board. The president described the aircraft as a small, propeller driven plane operated by the Malawian armed forces. The tail number he provided shows it is a Dornier 228-type twin propeller plane that was delivered to the Malawian army in 1988, according to the ch-aviation website that tracks aircraft information.

Around 600 personnel were involved in the search in a vast forest plantation in the Viphya Mountains near Mzuzu, authorities said. Chilima was serving his second term as vice president. He was also in the role from 2014-2019 under former President Peter Mutharika. He was a candidate in the 2019 Malawian presidential election and finished third, behind the incumbent, Mutharika, and Chakwera. The vote was later annulled by Malawi's Constitutional Court because of irregularities.

Chilima then joined Chakwera's campaign as his running mate in an historic election rerun in 2020, when Chakwera was elected president. It was the first time in Africa that an election result that was overturned by a court resulted in a defeat for the sitting president. *—AP*

# Zelenskyy attends Berlin conference

**BERLIN, 11 JUNE**

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has arrived in Berlin to meet with Chancellor Olaf Scholz and attend a donor conference to rebuild the war-torn country.

"Chancellor Scholz and I will discuss further defence assistance, the expansion of Ukraine's air defence system, and joint arms production," Zelenskyy wrote in a post on X.

The event for Ukraine, called the Ukraine Recovery Conference, will be attended by a host of people, including at least 10 prime ministers. More than 2,000 people from 60 countries, from many sectors including the private sector, are slated to attend the conference. "In the face of Russia's air terror, urgent solutions for Ukraine's energy sector will be our top priority," Zelenskyy said.

Russian attacks have crippled Ukrainian electricity infrastructure, with Kyiv implementing several measures in recent days to limit electricity consumption in the country.

Zelenskyy told delegates at the Ukraine Recovery Conference in Berlin that Russian attacks had destroyed half of Ukraine's energy-generating capacity since winter. "As a result of the strikes of Russian missiles and drones, nine gigawatts of capacity have already been destroyed," Zelenskyy said. "The peak of electricity consumption last winter was 18 gigawatts. So half now doesn't exist."

He added that Ukraine planned to build 1 gigawatt of gas-fired energy generation this year and 4 gigawatts in the coming years. He called for investment, aid and equipment to help Kyiv rebuild its electricity network.

He also said he hoped to secure billions in funding to boost defense against Russia, rebuild homes, and meet education and medical needs.

*—Courtesy, DW News*

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy with Chancellor Olaf Schol in Berlin on Tuesday *PHOTO: AP/PTI*

## Warning shots from S KOREA as North Cross border

**SEOUL, 11 JUNE**

South Korean soldiers fired warning shots after North Korean troops briefly violated the tense border earlier this week, South Korea's military said Tuesday, as the rivals are embroiled in Cold War-style campaigns like balloon launches and propaganda broadcasts.

Bloodshed and violent confrontations have occasionally occurred at the Koreas' heavily fortified border, called the Demilitarized Zone. While Sunday's incident happened amid simmering tensions between the two Koreas, observers say it won't likely develop into another source of animosity as South Korea believes the North Koreans didn't deliberately commit the border intrusion and North Korea also didn't return fire.

At 12:30 p.m. on Sunday, some North Korean soldiers who were engaged in unspecified work on the northern side of the border crossed the military demarcation line that bisects the two countries, South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said. South Korea's military has assessed that the North Korean soldiers didn't appear to have intentionally crossed the border because the site is a wooded area and MDL signs there weren't clearly visible, Joint Chiefs of Staff spokesperson Lee Sung Joon told reporters. Lee gave no further details. But South Korean media reports said that about 20-30 North Korean soldiers had entered South Korean territory about 50 meters (165 feet) after they likely lost their way. *—AP*

## Fire at Bangkok market kills 1,000 animals

**BANGKOK, 11 JUNE**

At least 1,000 animals were killed in a fire in Bangkok's famous open-air Chatuchak market early Tuesday, gutting nearly 100 shops.

Birds, dogs, cats and snakes were burnt to death in their cages in the pet zone, which also included rats, pythons and geckos. The blaze was started by an electrical short circuit, authorities said, adding that no human casualties or injuries have been reported. With tens of thousands of shops crowding narrow lanes, Chatuchak is one of South East Asia's biggest markets.

It's also the largest and best-known of Thailand's weekend markets. It claims to draw nearly 200,000 tourists every Saturday and Sunday.

But the portion of the market selling pets is open through the week. This accounts for about four of the 27 sections in Chatuchak market and is arguably its most controversial trade.

This zone of the market is subjected to regular inspections and has been criticised for the animals' poor living conditions, which has reportedly led to high rates of disease and death. "When I got here, everything was gone, all burned down," says Amporn Wannasut, a shop owner who rushed to the market after being alerted to the fire. *—BBC News*

# Hunter Biden found guilty on all 3 charges

**WILMINGTON, 11 JUNE**

Hunter Biden was convicted on Tuesday of all three felony charges related to the purchase of a revolver in 2018 when, prosecutors argued, the president's son lied on a mandatory gun-purchase form by saying he was not illegally using or addicted to drugs.

The 12-person jury found he lied about his drug use on a form when purchasing a handgun in 2018

Hunter now faces a possible prison term of up to 25 years, although a sentence of that length for a first-time offender is highly unlikely.

Hunter Biden with his wife *PHOTO: AP/PTI*

Jurors found Hunter guilty of lying to a federally licensed gun dealer, making a false claim on the application by saying he was not a drug user and illegally having the gun for 11 days. The jury in Wilmington, Delaware, deliberated for about three hours over two days.

Hunter started straight ahead and showed little emotion as the verdict was read. After the verdict, he hugged both of his attorneys and smiled wanly. He kissed his wife, Melissa, and they left the courtroom together.

*—AP/BBC News*

# World Bank approves loan for China-backed Pak project

**ISLAMABAD, 11 JUNE**

The World Bank has approved an additional loan of USD 1 billion for cash-strapped Pakistan to support the China-backed Dasu hydropower project in the restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

According to a report in the Express Tribune newspaper, this constitutes the third major financing by the global lender for the project, which earlier secured USD 588.4 million for preparatory works and an additional USD 700 million for constructing the transmission line to transmit electricity from the project.

The Dasu hydropower project, situated approximately 300 km north of Islamabad in the unruly Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, is being developed by China Gezhouba with funding from the global lender and has endured at least two deadly terrorist attacks targeting Chinese nationals involved in its construction.

The World Bank in a press release on Monday said it has approved USD 1 billion additional financing for the DASU Hydropower Stage I (DHP I) Project. "This financing will support the expansion of hydropower electricity supply, improve access to socio-economic services for local communities, and build the Water and Power Development Authority's (WAPDA) capacity to prepare future hydropower projects," it said. Najy Benhassine, World Bank Country Director for Pakistan, said the country's energy sector suffers from multiple challenges to achieve affordable, reliable, and sustainable energy.

*PHOTO: WIKIPEDIA*

- The World Bank said it has approved USD 1 billion additional financing for the DASU Hydropower Stage I (DHP I) Project

"The DASU Hydropower Project site is one of the best hydropower sites in the world and is a game changer for the Pakistan energy sector. With a very small footprint, the DHP will contribute to 'greening' the energy sector and lowering the cost of electricity," he said in the release. *—PTI*

# 4 US college instructors stabbed in China park

**BEIJING, 11 JUNE**

Four US university tutors are in hospital after they were stabbed by an unknown assailant at a public park in China.

The Iowa Cornell College instructors were injured in a "serious incident" during a daytime visit to the park in the northern province of Jilin, a college statement said. Iowa Representative Adam Zabner said his brother, David, was one of the four instructors injured in the incident, which he described as a stabbing.

China's foreign ministry says that none of the injured are in a life-threatening condition. Zabner said the group had been visiting a local temple on Monday when they were attacked by a man with a knife. He said his brother had been stabbed in the arm at Beishan Park in Jilin city and was recovering in hospital. "He has not yet been released this morning but he's doing ok," he told CBS News.

Cornell College said the four instructors had been teaching "as part of a partnership with a university in China". The group had been accompanied by a member of Beihua University at the time of their visit to the park on Monday.

*—BBC News*

SELLING REJECTED VISAS

# *UK, Schengen states raise millions of pounds*

**LONDON, 11 JUNE**

The United Kingdom and Schengen countries raised millions of pounds and euros in fees from rejected visa applications from Pakistan, new research published this month shows.

The analysis released by Lago Collective, a community of researchers, policymakers and designers, shows that Pakistanis spent £5.3 million on rejected UK visa applications, with close to 40 per cent applications rejected from Pakistan in 2023.

In the same year, around 50pc of Schengen visas from Pakistan were also rejected, with £3.344m spent on applications.

The data was published in collaboration with the EUobserver, which reported that EU governments raked in £130m per year in rejected visa application fees, which were dubbed as 'reverse remittances'. The analysis compiled by Marta Foresti and Otho Mantegazza at Lago Collective showed that the cost of Schengen visa rejections in 2023 was £130m.

Pakistanis spent £5.3M on rejected UK visa applications *PHOTO: FREEPIK*

"Visa inequality has very tangible consequences and the world's poorest pay the price. You can think of the costs of rejected visas as 'reverse remittances', money flowing from poor to rich countries," Foresti said in a statement to Dawn. "We never hear about these costs when discussing aid or migration, it is time to change that.

The EU observer report said the total sum is likely to increase in 2024 since the visa application fee to travel to the EU will increase from 80 to 90 for adults on June 11. It also said the UK raised £44m in rejected fees, which are non-refundable regardless of the outcome. African and Asian countries bear 90pc of the costs for rejected Schengen visas. Writing for LSE blogs last year, Foresti noted, "Visas regimes are not equal or reciprocal. *—Courtesy, Dawn*

## Rupee falls 6 paise to close at 83.56 against US dollar

MUMBAI, 11 JUNE

The rupee settled for the day lower by 6 paise at 83.56 (provisional) against the US dollar on Tuesday, weighed down by a muted trend in domestic equities and the strength of the American currency in overseas markets. Forex traders said the US dollar strengthened due to increased demand from oil importers and stronger-than-expected economic data from the US. Moreover, elevated crude oil prices also weighed on the local unit. At the interbank foreign exchange, the local unit opened at 83.49 and saw an intra-day low of 83.58 and finally settled for the day lower by 6 paise at 83.56 (provisional) against the American currency. On Monday, the rupee settled lower by 10 paise at 83.50 against the US dollar. Traders may remain cautious ahead of the inflation data from India and the US. Investors are also likely to stay cautious ahead of the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) meeting outcome. Fed is expected to keep its monetary policy unchanged, Choudhary said, adding that the USD-INR spot price is expected to trade in a range of Rs 83.30 to Rs 83.80. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading at 105.25, higher by 0.10 per cent. —*PTI*

## Gold rises ₹150; silver plunges ₹1,400

NEW DELHI, 11 JUNE

Gold prices rose by Rs 150 to Rs 71,950 per 10g in the national capital on Tuesday in line with firm trends in the international markets, according to HDFC Securities. The precious metal had ended at Rs 71,800 per 10g on Monday. However, silver prices plunged Rs 1,400 to Rs 90,700 per kg. In the previous session, it had closed at Rs 92,100 per kg. In the global markets, spot gold at Comex was trading at USD 2,303 per ounce, up USD 10 from the previous close. However, silver quoted lower at USD 29.20 per ounce. It had settled at USD 29.50 per ounce in the previous session.—*PTI*

## SBI Mutal Fund hikes holding in Kotak Bank to 5%

NEW DELHI, 11 JUNE

SBI Mutual Fund has increased its stake in Kotak Mahindra Bank to over 5 per cent. In a regulatory filing on Tuesday, Kotak Mahindra Bank said that the fund house purchased 21.57 lakh shares through the open market on June 5. With the fresh addition, SBI Mutual Fund's stake in Kotak Mahindra Bank increased to 5.01 per cent, it said. Shares of Kotak Mahindra Bank were trading 1.35 per cent lower at Rs 1,722 apiece on the BSE. —*PTI*

# Centre releases ₹1.39L cr tax devolution to states

### UP gets ₹ 25K cr followed by Bihar at ₹14K cr & MP ₹10K cr

NEW DELHI, 11 JUNE

Finance Ministry's decision to release tax devolution was taken following a high-level meeting PHOTO: PIXABAY

In a move to spur economic development in states, Finance Ministry has released an additional instalment of tax devolution to states for June 2024. The total amount released to states for June now stands at Rs 1,39,750 crore.

This decision was taken to accelerate development projects of different states so that their any projects should not get delayed because of capital requirement.

Finance Ministry's decision to release tax devolution was taken following a high-level meeting with the Finance Secretary and the Secretary of the Department of Economic Affairs on Monday.

During the meeting, the economic and fiscal conditions of states were thoroughly reviewed, leading to the conclusion that an additional instalment of funds would be necessary.

The biggest chunk of the fund went to Uttar Pradesh at Rs 25,069.88 crore, followed by Bihar at Rs 14,056.12 crore, Madhya Pradesh got Rs 10,970.44 crore, and West Bengal was devolved Rs 10,513.46 crore. The additional instalment of funds is part of a broader fiscal strategy outlined in the Interim Budget for 2024-25, which has allocated Rs 12,19,783 crore towards the devolution of taxes to states.

> In a move to spur economic development in states, Finance Ministry has released an additional instalment of tax devolution to states for June 2024. The total amount released to states for June now stands at Rs 1,39,750 crore.

With the additional funds being released this month, the cumulative amount devolved to states as of 10 June, for the fiscal year 2024-25 has reached Rs 2,79,500 crore.

This disbursement highlights the central government's focus on maintaining a steady flow of financial resources to states, ensuring they have the means to undertake crucial development initiatives. State governments will benefit from this enhanced financial support, enabling them to accelerate their capital expenditures, including critical infrastructure projects such as road construction, public facilities, and other development initiatives.

The Finance Ministry has provided a detailed state-wise breakdown of the funds released, ensuring each state receives its fair share to meet its specific development needs. As India continues to navigate the complexities of global economic dynamics, the central government's focus on providing financial support to states is crucial for sustaining growth. —*PTI*

DEAL WITH EDGE GROUP

# Adani inks pacts with UAE's top defence firm

AHMEDABAD, 11 JUNE

PHOTO: ADANI GROUP

Adani Defence and Aerospace has signed a cooperation agreement with UAE-based EDGE Group, one of the world's leading advanced technology and defence groups.

As per an press release issued on Tuesday, the agreement aims to establish a platform leveraging the defence and aerospace capabilities of both companies to bring together their respective products and cater to consumers world over.

This includes evaluating cooperation across EDGE's and Adani's core product domains, including missiles and weapons covering airborne, surface, infantry, ammunition, and air defence products, platforms and systems covering unmanned aerial systems (UAS), loitering munitions, counter drone systems, unmanned ground vehicles (UGV), as well as electronic warfare (EW) and cyber technologies.

The agreement will explore the establishment of R&D facilities in India and the UAE; the setting up of development, production, and maintenance facilities of defence and aerospace solutions to not just serve the two captive markets, but also Southeast Asian and wider global markets.

"Our agreement with Adani Defence & Aerospace, represents a significant milestone, strengthening our ties within India's defence industry, and underscoring our mutual commitment to advancing UAE-India military ties," said Hamad Al Marar, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, Edge Group.

Adani Defence and Aerospace is a part of the larger Adani Group. —*ANI*

## India reports 6th strongest hiring outlook globally in Sept

NEW DELHI, 11 JUNE

PHOTO: PTI

India ranks sixth globally for its employment outlook for September quarter 2024, with 30 per cent of businesses planning to increase their staff over the next three months, according to a global survey by workforce solutions company ManpowerGroup.

India's Net Employment Outlook (NEO), calculated by subtracting employers planning reductions versus those planning to hire, stood at 30 per cent. It weakened from the previous quarter and the same time last year by 6 per cent, as employers are cautious in their hiring intent for the next three months.

India ranks sixth globally for its employment outlook, 8 points above the global average. The survey was conducted in 42 countries.

Globally, Costa Rica reported the strongest hiring expectation for July-September at 35 per cent, followed by Switzerland (34 per cent), Guatemala (32 per cent), Mexico (32 per cent) and South Africa (31 per cent).

On the other hand, Argentina and Romania reported the weakest NEO at 3 per cent.

In the Asia Pacific region, the country has the strongest outlook. India (30 per cent) and China (28 per cent) continue to report the strongest outlook in the region. The real estate sector, however, has seen an increased investor interest with a capital inflow to the tune of USD 1.1 billion led by the residential sector.

Overall, the hiring intentions in North India stood at 36 per cent, followed by West (31 per cent), South (30 per cent), and East (21 per cent). —*PTI*

AFTER RECORD-BREAKING RALLY

# Sensex, Nifty settle almost flat amid volatile trade

MUMBAI, 11 JUNE

PHOTO: PTI

Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty ended almost flat on Tuesday after a record-breaking rally, as investors preferred to remain on the sidelines awaiting further triggers. After trading in the positive territory for the most part of the trade, the 30-share BSE Sensex declined 33.49 points or 0.04 per cent to settle at 76,456.59 due to fag-end selling. During the day, it jumped 370.45 points or 0.48 per cent to 76,860.53. In a volatile trade, the NSE Nifty ended marginally up by 5.65 points or 0.02 per cent at 23,264.85.

Sensex and Nifty hit their all-time high levels in the early trade on Monday.

"After a notable rebound, the domestic market has stabilized, awaiting further triggers. With the resolution of uncertainties in government formation, attention has shifted back to global and domestic indicators. Concerns have risen regarding potential US rate cuts following last week's strong US job data, leading to an increase in US bond yields. However, FIIs have been net buyers lately. Investors are now gearing up for this week's policy decisions from the US Fed and the BoJ, as well as key inflation data from the U.S. and India, seeking insights into the trajectory of rate cuts," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services, said.

Among the 30 Sensex companies, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Asian Paints, Reliance Industries, ITC, Sun Pharma, ICICI Bank, Axis Bank and JSW Steel were the major laggards.

Larsen & Toubro, Tata Motors, Maruti, NTPC, Mahindra & Mahindra and UltraTech Cement were among the gainers.

Signalling continuity, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday retained Amit Shah, Rajnath Singh, Nirmala Sitharaman and S Jaishankar in charge of the four high-profile ministries - Home, Defence, Finance and External Affairs - respectively, in his new government. —*PTI*

PHOTO: PIXABAY

## 'MICRO LOANS GREW 27% IN MAR, STRESS LEVELS INCH UP'

MUMBAI, 11 JUNE

The micro loans portfolio of various lenders grew by 27 per cent year-on-year for the March 2024 quarter, a report said on Tuesday.

After remaining stable or improving over the last many quarters, the stress levels in terms of loan default inched up marginally during the quarter, the report by credit information company Crif High Mark said.

At a time when the regulator is flagging concerns on unsecured loans, the data pointed out that personal loan outstandings of microfinance borrowers witnessed the second fastest growth among other retail assets with a portfolio growth of over 38 per cent.

The gross loan portfolio grew 28 per cent to Rs 4.42 lakh crore in December, the report said, adding that the growth was 8.5 per cent as compared to the preceding December quarter figure. The top 10 states account for 83.5 per cent of the Gross Loan Portfolio (GLP), it said, adding that West Bengal, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh posted the fastest growth during the January-March period. However, the proportion of loan assets overdue for the duration between 31 days and 180 days grew to 2.1 per cent in March from the 2 per cent level in December 2023, it said. —*PTI*

## DOMESTIC VEHICLE SALES UP 4% IN MAY AT 3.47L UNITS: SIAM

NEW DELHI, 11 JUNE

Automakers dispatched over 3.47 lakh passenger vehicles to dealers in domestic market in May, recording an year-on-year growth of 4 per cent over same month last year, industry body SIAM said on Tuesday.

The overall passenger vehicle (PV) dispatches from companies to dealers stood at 3,47,492 units last month, as compared to 3,34,537 units in May 2023.

The dispatches were the highest ever for the month of May so far, driven by robust offtake of utility vehicles.

Maruti Suzuki sold 1,44,002 units last month, as against 1,43,708 units in May 2023.

Hyundai Motor India dispatched 49,151 units in May, as compared to 48,601 units in May 2023.

Mahindra & Mahindra sold 43,218 units last month, as against 32,886 units in the year-ago period.

All the segments -- passenger vehicles, commercial vehicles, two-wheelers and three-wheelers have posted growth in May, as compared to the same month last year, the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) President Vinod Aggarwal said in a statement.

Two-wheeler sales rose 10 per cent to 16,20,084 units last month, as compared to 14,71,550 units in the year-ago period.

Three-wheeler dispatches rose 15 per cent to 55,763 units in May, as against 48,610 units in May 2023. —*PTI*

## Tata concerned over impact of UK polls on £1.25B deals

NEW DELHI, 11 JUNE

Tata steel has expressed apprehensions about British media reports suggesting that the £1.25 billion investment in Port Talbot plant may be impacted on account of policy differences between the UK government and the Opposition.

In September 2023, Tata Steel and the UK government agreed on a joint investment plan of 1.25 billion pounds to execute decarbonisation plans at Port Talbot steel making facility in Britain.

Of the 1.25 billion pounds, 500 million pounds would be provided by the UK government.

Tata Steel said it will continue with the announced closure of the heavy-end assets and restructuring programme at Port Talbot in the coming months. —*PTI*

SIRI'S MAKEOVER

# *Apple brings ChatGPT to iPhones in AI overhaul*

CUPERTINO, 11 JUNE

Apple is to boost its Siri voice assistant and operating systems with OpenAI's ChatGPT as it seeks to catch up in the AI race.

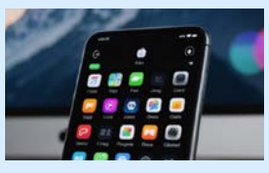
The iPhone maker announced the Siri makeover along with a number of other new features at its annual developers show on Monday.

It is part of a new personalised AI system - called "Apple Intelligence" - that aims to offer users a way to navigate Apple devices more easily.

Updates to its iPhone and Mac operating systems will allow access to ChatGPT through a partnership with developer OpenAI.

ChatGPT can also be used to boost other tools, including text and content generation. The test version will become available in the autumn.

Tim Cook, Apple chief executive, said the move would bring his company's products "to new heights" as he opened the Worldwide Developers Conference at the tech giant's headquarters in Cupertino, California.



**Other new features announced include:**

- Sending texts via satellite
- Scheduling messages to send at a later point
- Using head gestures (nodding for yes or shaking head for no) to control AirPods Pro
- A dedicated app for passwords that is accessible across devices
- The ability to hide certain apps or lock them away behind Face ID or passcodes

There was a cool reaction from the markets though - Apple's share price fell by 1.91 per cent on Monday, the day of the announcement.

The partnership was also not welcomed by Elon Musk, the owner of Tesla and X, who has threatened to ban iPhones from his companies due to "data security".

"Apple has no clue what's actually going on once they hand your data over to OpenAI," Musk said on X. "They're selling you down the river."

Smartphone maker Samsung also mocked its rival's announcement.

"Adding 'Apple' doesn't make it new or groundbreaking. Welcome to AI", it posted on X.

Apple usurped by Microsoft as the world's most valuable company in January, and was overtaken again by chip-maker Nvidia in early June.

It is similar to Microsoft's AI assistant Copilot – but you won't have to pay extra to activate it. Siri, the voice assistant Apple acquired in 2010, has been refreshed with a new interface and chattier approach to help users navigate their devices and apps more seamlessly. —*BBC News*

**Apple to not release Vision Pro in India**

Tech giant Apple is set to expand its availability of its latest innovation Apple Vision Pro to nine new countries, but India doesn't feature among them. The tech giant has officially announced that the pre-orders for the spatial user interface device for China mainland, Hong Kong, Japan, and Singapore would begin on Friday, and availability on 28 June.Vision Pro device, launched last year, blends digital content with the physical world, to deliver spatial experiences that transform the way people work and consume entertainment, and much more.

—*PTI*

BATTLES COMPETITION

# *Meta to use European data to train AI amid privacy row*

LONDON, 11 JUNE

Meta wants to use data from users in privacy-conscious Europe to train its artificial intelligence models, the social media giant said Monday as it faces concerns about data protection while battling to keep up with rivals like OpenAI and Google.

The company, which owns Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp, said that in order to better reflect the "languages, geography and cultural references" of its users in Europe, it needs to use public data from those users to teach its Llama AI large language model.

Meta's AI training efforts are hampered by stringent European Union data privacy laws, which give people control over how their personal information is used. Vienna-based group NOYB, led by activist Max Schrems, complained last week to 11 national privacy watchdogs about Meta's AI training plans and urged them to stop the company before it starts training Llama's next generation.

PHOTO: PIXABAY

AI language models are trained on vast pools of data that help them predict the most plausible next word in a sentence, with newer versions typically smarter and more capable than their predecessors. Meta's AI assistant feature has been baked into Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp for users in the US and 13 other countries, but notably not Europe.

"If we don't train our models on the public content that Europeans share on our services and others, such as public posts or comments, then models and the AI features they power won't accurately understand important regional languages, cultures or trending topics on social media," Stefano , global engagement director of Meta's privacy policy, said in blog post.

"We believe that Europeans will be ill-served by AI models that are Frattanot informed by Europe's rich cultural, social and historical contributions."

Fratta said other companies including Google and OpenAI have already trained on European data. Meta won't use private messages to friends and family nor content from European users who are under 18, he said.

Since May 22, the company has sent 2 billion notifications and emails to European users explaining its plans and linking to an online form to opt out, Fratta said.

—*PTI*

PHOTO: PTI

## Akmal apologizes for comments against Arshdeep

LAHORE, 11 JUNE

A day after being called out for making disrespectful comments against India pacer Arshdeep Singh, former Pakistan wicketkeeper-batter Kamran Akmal apologized for his "inappropriate" remarks while analyzing the recent T20 World Cup clash between the two sides in New York. In a viral video, Akmal was seen making fun of Arshdeep's Sikh religion, prompting a furious response from ace Indian cricketer-turned-commentator Harbhajan."I deeply regret my recent comments and sincerely apologize to Harbhajan Singh and the Sikh community.—*AP*

PHOTO: PTI

## Chennaiyin FC rope in Colombian star Wilmar Jordan Gil

CHENNAI, 11 JUNE

Chennaiyin FC has signed Colombian striker Wilmar Jordan Gil ahead of the 2024-25 season, the Indian Super League club announced on Tuesday. The Colombian striker brings a wealth of experience and skill to the club, having been part of ISL for two seasons. Wilmar made his ISL debut with NorthEast United FC in 2022. He then continued his impressive journey with ISL debutants Punjab FC the following season, scoring eight goals in 15 appearances. Joining Chennaiyin on a one-year deal, Jordan's arrival marks the club's fifth signing for the 2024-25 season and their third foreign acquisition.—*PTI*

## India to Host Junior Hockey World Cup in 2025

LAUSANNE, 11 JUNE

India will host next year's men's Junior Hockey World Cup, marking the event's return to the country after nine years, the Executive Board of the International Hockey Federation announced on Tuesday. The tournament will be held in December and it will be the first time that a Hockey Junior World Cup will include as many as 24 teams. This was announced by FIH President Tayyab Ikram who said: "Giving more opportunities to play to a larger and more diverse number of National Associations is one of the key pillars of our empowerment and engagement strategy."—*PTI*

PHOTO: PTI

## Not a good call: Hridoy on B'desh losing 4 leg byes

NEW YORK, 11 JUNE

The on-field umpire's decision to adjudge veteran batter Mahmudullah Riyad LBW, which was subsequently overturned in a review, was a bad call that cost Bangladesh the match against South Africa, their young batter Towhid Hridoy has said. A contentious ICC rule saw them lose four leg bye runs when Mahmudullah was given out leg before by on-field umpire Sam off an Ottneil Baartman delivery. The ball had crossed the boundary ropes but it was deemed dead as Mahmudullah opted for DRS and got the decision overturned. As per ICC rules, no extra runs (leg-byes or byes) can be given if an on-field umpire gives a batter out LBW even if the decision is overturned by the third umpire.South Africa 113 for 6 (Klaasen 46, Miller 29, Tanzim 3-18, Taskin 2-19) beat Bangladesh 109 for 7 (Hridoy 37, Maharaj 3-27, Nortje 2-17, Rabada 2-19) by four runs. —*AP*

T20 WORLD CUP

# Australia faces Namibia with an eye on Super Eight

### Sri Lanka is in a must-win situation against Nepal

NORTH SOUND, 11 JUNE

Living up to the favorites tag with two consecutive wins, a confident Australia will aim to secure a Super Eight berth when they face lower-ranked Namibia in their Group B T20 World Cup clash here on Wednesday.

Australia fired in unison to become the first team in this edition of the tournament to score 200-plus runs in a one-sided 36-run win over arch-rivals England in their last group league match.

It was their second win from as many matches, having started with a 39-run triumph over Oman. Beating Nambia will be enough for them to cut before they take on Scotland in their concluding Group B league fixture. Scotland lead the table with five points and along with Australia, are firmly ahead in the race to make the Super Eight at the expense of defending champions England who have one point from two matches. Their opening game against Scotland was a washout.

Australia batsman Mathew Wade and Srilankan team is seen during a practice PHOTO: X / @T20WORLDCUP

Australia defeated Namibia by seven wickets after restricting their opponents to 119/9 in their only T20 meeting, albeit in a warm-up game two weeks back. Playing his last World Cup for Australia, David Warner has been in splendid form with one half century and it was his 16-ball 39 that set the tone for their 201/7 against England.

Warner incidentally scored a fifty in the warm-up against Namibia as well. He has 97 runs in the tournament at a fine strike rate of 141.79.

Warner's opening partner Travis Head has also been at his explosive best and the duo will look to give the team a fiery start. Namibia will expect their veteran all-rounder David Wiese to step up after he starred in their Super-Over win against Oman. **The match starts at 6 am IST**

**SL in a must-win clash vs Nepal**

Former champion Sri Lanka's campaign has gone haywire after defeats to South Africa and they are now faced with a do-or-die clash against Nepal in a Group D fixture in Lauderhill, Florida.

Nepal, on the other hand, lost to the Netherlands by six wickets in their only match so far. South Africa have already qualified for the Super Eight following their nervy win over Bangladesh.

A win for the Wanindu Hasaranga-led side will further heat the race for the second spot with Bangladesh, Netherlands, and Nepal also in the reckoning. For that to happen, the onus will be on the batters. A loss, on the other hand, would mean curtains for Sri Lanka. **The match starts at 5 am IST**

—*PTI*

# Satwik, Chirag lose No.1 ranking; slip to 3rd in BWF

NEW DELHI, 11 JUNE

Premier Indian doubles pair Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, who pulled out of their title defense at the Indonesia Open last week, slipped two rungs to third in the latest Badminton World Federation rankings on Tuesday.China's Liang Wei Keng and Wang Chang are the new men's doubles No.1s followed by Denmark's Kim Astrup and Anders Skaarup Rasmussen, who jumped two places. The Chirag-Satwik pair won the Thailand Open in May to reclaim the No.1 ranking but suffered a loss of form and made a first-round exit from the Singapore Open last month.The Indians have also pulled out of the ongoing Australian Open.In men's singles, HS Prannoy and Lakshya Sen remained inside top-15, maintaining their 10th and 14th positions respectively. Kidambi Srikanth dropped four places to be No 32, while Priyanshu Rajawat (No 34) and Kiran George (No 35, up by one place) were the next best Indians.

Satwiksairaj and Chirag PHOTO: X / @SATWIK_RANKIREDDY

Two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu remained static at No. 10 in the women's singles rankings.In women's doubles, Paris Olympics-bound pair Tanisha Crasto and Ashwini Ponnappa improved one place to 19th.Teresa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand also climbed one notch to 24th.The Commonwealth Games bronze-medallist pair had made a last-16 exit from the Indonesia Open. way.

—*PTI*

## Pak YouTuber shot dead by security guard for filming Ind vs Pak vlog

KARACHI, 11 JUNE

India and Pakistan are both cricket-crazy nations and when the two teams lock horns in a multination tournament, the madness is next to none.

Victories are celebrated like festivals whereas the losses are indigestible. Who would know it better than the Pakistani fans; they have been breaking the television sets whenever their team loses to India. But this year, the hype around the Ind vs Pak encounter, in the T20 World Cup 2024, led to shootouts and bloodshed. According to Pakistani media, a gruesome incident shook Lahore city even before the arch-rivals squared off against each other in the showpiece event.

A YouTuber, called Saad Ahmed, took to the city's mobile market to film a vlog on the build-up for the India vs Pakistan match in New York on 9 June.

YouTuber Saad PHOTO: X / @DUCKYBHAI

After speaking with several people about the face-off, he encountered a security guard who wasn't interested in featuring in the video.The security guard lost his cool on being questioned repeatedly and eventually, shot the YouTuber dead. Several reports stated that Saad was rushed to the hospital but he was declared dead on arrival. One of Saad's friends told Pakistan's Geo TV that he received a call from the YouTuber before leaving to shoot a video in Karachi's mobile market. —*AP*

## Rohit & Co. eye better batting show against USA

NEW YORK, 11 JUNE

India's batting prima donnas would want to unchain themselves from the vagaries of a much-maligned drop-in track and chance their arms freely against the impressive-but-inexperienced USA in their group league game of the T20 World Cup here on Wednesday.

India, who are classified as A1 (irrespective of points), need just one more win to ensure their Super Eight berth and despite the two-paced nature of the Nassau County track, they wouldn't like a repeat of the match against Pakistan where they lost their last seven wickets for 28 runs.

Against the USA, the approach could be a high-risk one like Pakistan but perhaps with higher dividends.Their dreams of wearing the India blues remained unfulfilled but when a sprightly bunch of Indian Americans takes the field against their country of birth, the likes of Saurabh Netravalkars and Harmeet Singhs would once again like to be the proverbial David against the Goliaths of the game.Even though the track has significantly bridged the gap between teams, the USA, which is an eclectic mix of eight Indians, two Pakistanis, a West Indian, one New Zealander, a South African, and a Dutch might just find the gulf with India too much to bridge. Monank Patel, Harmeet, Netravalkar, Jessy Singh, and Noshtush Kenjige all have their little Indian story to tell and if the opposition has Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, Jasprit Bumrah, and Rishabh Pant in its ranks, it would be a touch more endearing.It's not every day that one gets a chance to bowl at Kohli and Sharma and face Bumrah even if it's far from being a sweet experience. But it's experience nevertheless and that too of a lifetime. For India, it will be their last match in the 'Big Apple' extension and the one where they wouldn't mind batting first.If India bowls first, there could be a high chance that the USA might not be able to touch the three-figure mark against Bumrah, Mohammed Siraj, and Ravindra Jadeja.There will be some beautiful and emotional sub-plots as well if Netravalkar gets a chance to bowl to his former Mumbai teammate Suryakumar Yadav with whom he played in Mumbai U-15, Ranji, and Vijay Hazare Trophy." Match Starts: at 8 pm IST. —*PTI*

PHOTO: X / @INDIA_ALLSPORTS

## Nagal moves to pre-QF of ATP Challenger

PERUGIA, 11 JUNE

India's top-ranked tennis player Sumit Nagal advanced to the pre-quarterfinals of the ATP 125 Perugia Challenger with a straight sets win over Bosnian Nerman Fatic here on Tuesday.

The sixth seed Indian, who won the men's singles crown at the Heilbronn Neckarcup 2024 Challenger event in Germany last week, registered a 7-6(1), 6-2 win in the first round that lasted one hour 52 minutes. The first set was fought on an even keel with little separating the two players but Nagal managed to edge out Fatic in the tiebreak.

He then continued his fantastic first serve performance, dominating his Bosnian rival in the second set.

Nagal will take on local player Alessandro Giannessi in the second round.

The win has elevated Nagal four spots to a new career-high of 73 in the ATP live rankings.

Sumit Nagal advanced to the pre-quarterfinals of the ATP 125 Perugia Challenger PHOTO: X / @INDIA_ALLSPORTS

The 26-year-old has all but sealed a spot in the Paris Olympics men's singles draw.

Nagal would be the sole Indian in the men's singles event in Paris. The International Tennis Federation will notify national federations about qualified athletes by 12 June, following which National Olympic Committees will confirm their entries by 19 June. —*PTI*

## Saha vows to 'give more than 100 per cent' to Bengal

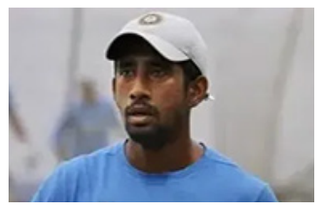
KOLKATA, 11 JUNE

Making a comeback to his home state Bengal two years after a public fallout, veteran Wriddhiman Saha on Tuesday sounded a touch emotional and said he "never looked at the past and focused on what lies in the present".

Saha, who will turn 40 later this year, has agreed to return to his home state after a "friendly discussion" with former India captain Sourav Ganguly and his wife Romi.

For starters, Saha will be the marquee player for the Rashmi Medinipur Wizards in the Bengal Pro T20 league, which began at Eden Gardens on Tuesday.

"I have not yet met the CAB officials, but went to the dressing room during practice and the colors of the chairs have changed. It looks different," Saha said emotionally during his first media interaction after returning to Bengal from Tripura.



Wriddhiman Saha PHOTO: PTI

"I never looked at the past; I always lived in the present. I've started my journey from here. Now that I'm back, I will try my best to get an opportunity on the Bengal side. "But at the moment, the focus is on the Bengal Pro T20 and helping the team reach the knockouts. —*PTI*

## Rifle and pistol teams for Olympics announced

NEW DELHI, 11 JUNE

Women's pistol ace Manu Bhaker was the only one to be picked in two individual events after her excellent run of form in selection trials as the national shooting federation on Tuesday announced a 15-member Indian rifle and pistol team for the Paris Olympics. The team was finalized during a selection meeting held virtually. The squad has eight rifle shooters and seven in pistol discipline.

The selectors decided to give precedence to trial results, shutting the door on the likes of world champion Rudrankksh Patil, who has been pleading to be considered despite underwhelming scores in his pet 10m air rifle event as he had won the quota. —*PTI*

WTA TOUR

# *Osaka wins first grass court match since 2009*

'S-HERTOGENBOSCH, 11 JUNE

Former World No.1 Naomi Osaka kicked off her grass-court season with a win at the Libema Open, defeating No.32 Elise Mertens in straight sets in the first round on Tuesday. Osaka defeated Mertens 6-2, 6-4 to register her first win on grass since the 2019 Wimbledon.

Making her tournament debut in Rosmalen, Osaka made good of the wild card into the main draw of the event.Following up on her outstanding performance in the second round of the French Open, where she held match point on eventual champion Iga Swiatek, Osaka's sublime serving and crisp baseline hitting was once again on full display in the 70-minute victory.

Osaka improved her head-to-head over Mertens to 4-2 with an unbreakable serving performance. After saving a break point in her second service game, Osaka did not face a break point for the remainder of the match, winning 90 percent of her first-serve points.She was also perfect on her break-point chances, breaking Mertens three times.Pegula victorious in injury comeback Meanwhile, world No.5 Jessica Pegula eased past Aliaksandra Sasnovich in another first-round match here, winning 6-2, 6-2 on Tuesday.

Former World No.1 Naomi Osaka PHOTO: X / @NAOMIOSAKA

The victory is Pegula's first since leading the United States to victory at the Billie Jean King Cup in April. After a two-month injury break, the American is playing her first Hologic WTA Tour tournament since the Credit One Charleston Open in April.

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Pegula is the top seed in both doubles and singles this week in 's-Hertogenbosch. Facing No.70 Sasnovich, Pegula showed no signs of rust from her competitive break.She played a clean and disciplined match off the ground, hitting nine winners to just six unforced errors to seal victory in 58 minutes. She broke Sasnovich five times from seven break points and was broken just once herself. —*AP*

## Vinicius Junior welcomes jail sentence for racially abusive fans

DUBAI, 11 JUNE

Vinicius Junior welcomed the eight-month prison sentences handed down on Monday to three Valencia fans for racially abusing him during a La Liga match last year. "This first criminal conviction in Spanish history is not for me. It's for all black people," the Real Madrid and Brazil attacker posted on social media. "But, as I've always said, I'm not a victim of racism. I'm a destroyer of racists. Let the other racists be afraid, ashamed and hide in the shadows. Otherwise, I'll be here to collect the debt," he wrote. "Thank you to La Liga and Real Madrid for helping to bring about this historic verdict. There's more to come..."

The defendants, who were not identified, were convicted of an offense against moral integrity with the aggravating factor of racially motivated discrimination, the Valencia court said. They were also slapped with a two-year match ban. With no previous criminal record, none will serve jail time as judges habitually suspend prison sentences of less than two years for first-time offenders. Spain's La Liga hailed the ruling as "the first sentence handed down for racist insults in a Spanish football stadium". —*AP*

Vinicius Junior PHOTO: X / @VINIJR